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THURSDAY, MAY 21ST, 2009

'SOCIAL WORKERS DID NOT TELL POLICE ABOUT ABUSE'

Vale Council apologises after 'inexcusable failings'

Report by JAYNE ISAAC

'A BLEAK day for the Vale'

That was how Vale Council leader Gordon Kemp described the publication of an inquiry into how a 19-year old man with a history of sexual problems was given an adult placement by Vale social workers with a family that included two young children – a three-year-old boy and a nine-year-old girl.

He sexually abused both and has since been jailed for an indeterminate period, with a tariff of at least six years.

The parents of the children were never warned of the teenager's sexual background and it emerged during the inquiry that this information was also never passed onto some of the social workers responsible for placing him with a family.

Now, the Vale Council has given an unreserved apology to the family and to the community – and has instituted a huge shake-up in its procedures to ensure that such failings never happen again.

Three members of the 'Leaving Care' team at the council have been suspended, and now face further disciplinary action following the publication of the inquiry report.

The report concluded that social workers were too concerned with looking after the interests of the 19-year- old, whom they regarded as a victim. They did not properly assess the risk he posed to the two young children.

The inquiry has drawn up 12 recommendations to prevent such a case arising again, and they have been included in an action plan.

Coun Kemp said that it was a bad day for the council and it reflected a tragic situation, especially for those children and their parents.

The complaint against the man was made by the children to their parents on December 30 last year. He was immediately removed by social workers but they failed to follow procedures laid down under child protection rules and did not notify the police of the alleged abuse.

Instead, it was the parents who did this three days later. The man was then arrested and subsequently prosecuted.

Coun Kemp stated he first become aware of the case at the beginning of January and fully backed social services director Philip Evans in his decision to carry out a thorough investigation, with assistance from the NSPCC.

The Vale Council press conference was given details of the background to the case and of the action plan drawn up by the council to tackle failings and ensure that such a case did not arise in future.

Coun Kemp said: "The report that we have today highlights failings made in the social services department, particularly by individuals in that department, which led to this situation arising."

Speaking to The GEM after the press conference, Coun Kemp gave an assurance as council leader that his role, and those of all the elected members, would be to ensure that the action plan would be fully implemented.

He said that there would be monitoring of the process by the cabinet, by council scrutiny committees and by backbench councillors to make sure that the recommendations made in the report were acted upon.

"We will be kept fully informed of progress," he added.

Asked about the funding of the social services department, Coun Kemp said that the authority was spending more than it was required to spend under Assembly funding rules on social services.

"But it's how we spend this money that's important," he said. "It must be targeted properly and we must have the right staff in place."

Coun Kemp was asked if there was a culture in the social services department of failing to follow proper procedures and of cutting corners. He replied that the investigation had not produced any evidence of this.

"But the cause of this problem was staff not following procedures and we will ensure that there are checks in place to monitor how staff carry out their duties and to make sure that the rules are followed.

"We must guard against any relaxation in the rules at any time. We need proper safeguards in place to ensure that procedures are followed."

He said that all the other adult placements made by the authority had been checked since this case came to light and all were found to be in order.

Chief executive John Maitland Evans described the situation as tragic and he said he was very sorry.

He pointed out that the council had not sought to make any excuses or cover anything up.

"This is a very bad report – the worst report I have ever seen in my time with the council. But the report provides us with a basis for action and some of this has already begun.

"The failings of a small number of staff make grim reading. There was failure to assess risk, there was bad professional judgement and a failure to follow the All Wales Child Protection procedures.

"This sort of practice is unacceptable and it must never be repeated."

He said that the 12 recommendations in the report provided the basis for the change that was needed.

"I am angry that we made mistakes and I am determined to ensure that they are not repeated."

Social services director Philip Evans said that anyone reading the report would be distressed by what happened to the two children, and would also be shocked and angry at the serious mistakes that were made.

"They will be concerned to ensure that other children do not suffer in the same way. People in the council feel exactly the same. We have to accept responsibility for the harm caused.

"This means facing up to the criticisms made in this report. We must regain and restore public trust in our social services."

Mr Evans stated that urgent action had been taken to set up the inquiry to find out what went wrong, who should accept responsibility and how the council could ensure such things do not happen again.

"Serious mistakes were made and we are not offering any excuses. We accept entirely the findings of the report. It is especially sad that we let down a family who welcomed this young man into their home.

"We need to give urgent reassurance to people who provide adult placements for us that all the current placements we have are safe.

"There must be no question of our absolute commitment to protect children in these homes and that means sharing all relevant information with those families."

Mr Evans said that the responsibility for placing the young man with this family was shared between a number of staff, but it was the work of the Leaving Care team that had the most adverse impact.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.)

WELL DONE TO CARRIE!

ONE Vale mum was so determined that her local nursery group should have the materials and equipment for an outdoor play area that she got on her bike – and cycled all the way to Coventry from Cowbridge!

Carrie Williams tells The GEM how the 140 mile cycle ride went on page 5.

ABOVE: Journey's end at Coventry War Memorial Park, and Carrie is congratulated by her proud family.

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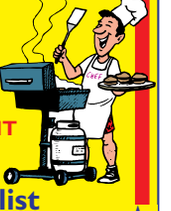

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'Can you help me trace family tree?'

I WAS wondering if any of your readers could help me with my family tree research?

My great grandmother, Margret Lavinia Thomas, was born in Llanblethian in 1884 and it seems as if she was part of a large family group, but I have little information on their descendants. She left Llanblethian for work in London where she married my great grandfather Herbert Wadlow in 1906.

She had five children, the youngest a daughter who died aged two. She, unfortunately, died the same year, 1918, and with her husband away in the army, her four sons were all put into care.

According to the 1891 census, she had the following relatives living and working in Llanblethian – Thomas Thomas (b 1850), her father, a dairy farmer of New House, Broadway; Isaac Thomas (b 1860), uncle, carpenter, New House, Broadway; Hopkin Thomas (b 1862), uncle, saddler, East Village, Cowbridge; John Thomas (b 1864), uncle, baker and flour dealer, Llanblethian.

Any help your readers can give me on this family would be very welcome.

Mike Wadlow,
Orpington, Kent

FOOTNOTE: Contact the writer through The GEM at the address on this page.

Beware jumping to conclusions!

CAN I, through your newspaper, reply to a member of the public who had left a note on my car windscreen, today (11.30am, May 12), while I was parked in the car park behind Somerfield in Llantwit Major.

On my return to my car, I found a note tucked under my windscreen wipers, which read something along the lines of "what an awful bit of parking (as I had taken up two spaces), it's selfish and inconsiderate".

I suffer from arthritis of the knees and hip, making entering/exiting from my car without being able to open the door fully very difficult and painful, hence the need to use more space than normal.

I am not registered as disabled, therefore I am unable to use 'disabled' parking areas – even if there were one, which I am unaware of in this particular car park.

Those who are inconsiderate and selfish are those drivers who park too close to the next vehicle, preventing any normal person gaining access to their car with ease.

Therefore, I would suggest to the individual who left the note for me, take a little time in future before jumping to conclusions about any given situation involving those less fortunate than themselves.

(Name and address supplied)

SEE PAGE 13 FOR MORE LETTERS, INCLUDING THE PUBLIC'S RESPONSE TO THE PLIGHT OF THE GHURKAS

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Bold decisions' can turn into a white elephant and embarrassment

THE letter about a link road by Mr Paul Robertson of Barry in The GEM on May 7, suggesting that I am of the opinion that everything is hunky dory, and things should stay the same, is totally inaccurate.

However, the statement that the statistical argument put forward by Mr John Smith is flawed, I think has been proved.

Mr Smith's 20-year campaign for a road linking Barry with the M4, started many years before the defence academy became an issue, and to suggest that I think the fiasco of Culverhouse Cross is "hunky dory" and the situation should remain the same is incorrect.

Anyone having examined the 2008 Public Consultation Document prepared by the Assembly via their consultants ARUP, will know that the link road running from Junction 33 is to be constructed into a motorway, with a flyover being created near Culverhouse Cross – thus taking away much of the congestion of traffic travelling to Barry via Wenvoe.

I wholeheartly agree with Mr Robertson that the Five Mile Lane, which he describes as a death trap, should be reconstructed and made a safe and fit road.

The cost would be vastly lower than the suggested £80 to £135 million for any of the proposed corridors.

Metrix, the consultants for the defence academy, and Cardiff Airport agree that the construction of a road for their use is not required.

People who sometimes make the so-called "bold decisions" that Mr Robertson speaks of can be embarrassed when they spend millions of public money on building a hangar at St Athan which then turns into a white elephant.

FMD Knill,
Pendoylan

Llantwit Major is no 'Bear Pit'

I WISH to respond to Spencer Locker's letter in The GEM on April 30.

Llantwit Major is a fine old town which has stood the test of time very well and how dare you call it a 'Bear Pit'?

From 1939 to 1945/46 at RAF St Athan and RAF Llandow, there were tens of thousands of military personnel from all our services, plus many more mixed services from around the world.

Yes, there has always been a small amount of friction between the local lads and servicemen and always will be.

However, I strongly object to your description of the 'residents of West Camp' as you like to call them. To me, they are very brave young men and women who have my utmost respect and I would remind you that a lot of them have families here who use our shops; their children go to the local schools and they fit in very well and are most welcome to do so.

How would you like your loved ones to be likened to a 'fouling, dangerous dog and should be muzzled'.

In my opinion, your comments are disgraceful. There are good and bad wherever you go, so don't put all the blame at West Camp's door, as there are a number of youngsters coming in most weekends by train, intent on causing trouble. You didn't mention them!

Mrs Mary Austin,
Llantwit Major

Don't characterise military trainees as 'steely-eyed killers'

In reply to FMD Knill's letter (The GEM, May 7), I would like to wholeheartedly agree that John Smith's parliamentary voting record is appalling – with the Government in almost every case, no matter his constituents' interests.

However, I think his work to bring the defence academy here has been commendable.

I must take issue with the Mr Knill's assertion that military training is all about killing other humans; it most certainly is not.

Admittedly, they are trained on equipment that might be used in defence of the UK's interests, but as a former trainer at St Athan, I never considered killing others to be an art as he asserted.

Whatever your view of the armed forces, let's not sidestep the fact that military training is necessary and if it has to be conducted somewhere - why not here?

You have to admit the Vale jobs market is in need of a little stimulus.

To address another point – let's not go on about Llantwit Major being a 'garrison town'.

Don't forget, the trainees who will come to St Athan are not steely-eyed killers, but youngsters, many of them not long out of school, who are trying to make their way in the world.

They will be reasonably intelligent and keen to follow the disciplined nature of their chosen trade on systems more complex than some of us can imagine – if not, they won't be around for long.

I simply cannot see that there will be packs of square-jawed bruisers roaming Llantwit looking for trouble, and if a fracas does break out, then the military police won't be too afraid to pick up any of this lot, I'm sure.

G Thomas,
Llantwit Major

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 28)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
21 Thur	04.44	13.1	17.11	13.1
22 Fri	05.35	13.5	18.02	12.3
23 Sat	06.21	13.9	18.51	14.1
24 Sun	07.11	14.3	19.39	14.5
25 Mon	08.07	14.5	20.21	14.6
26 Tues	09.01	14.5	21.11	14.8
27 Wed	09.49	14.4	22.02	14.5
28 Thur	10.34	14.2	22.55	14.2

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COASTGUARD 01792 366534
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
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Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
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RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0800 800500.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support -
Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

Citizens Advice: At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Office opening times vary throughout the week.Telephone 0845 120 3756 between 10am and noon for details). Further information on www.adviceguide.org.uk

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999. **Gas** - Gas emergency number 0800 111999. Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130. Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 709105. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline - 02920 673000.

To report a fly tipping incident - 02920 673000.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

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'The failure of staff to act is almost beyond understanding'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"We have changed all the managers in this service," he said. "Although the inquiry found evidence of some high standards of work, it is right to focus on what went wrong here.

"I am especially concerned about the assessment of risk – they were naïve and did not take account of the full case history."

He stated that after the allegations of abuse were made by the parents, social workers did not follow child protection procedures and call in the police. Instead, the parents did that themselves.

"The failure of staff to act is almost beyond understanding," he went on. "There were many safeguards in place to prevent this but the conduct of some staff and managers fell seriously below standard. These are experienced, qualified staff who have worked in the Vale for some time."

Mr Evans promised that further disciplinary action against those suspended would follow quickly.

He said that shortcomings identified in the report would be rectified by the action plan including issues to do with training and supervision.

"Some staff must acquire a better understanding of risk and they must place proper emphasis on the risk posed by service users to others. We are getting on with these changes and we want them all in place within months."

He said that he was brought into the Vale last year to address problems in social services and this case had shown how deep some problems were.

"There's a long way to go, but I can assure people in the Vale and elsewhere that the action plan will be delivered and delivered on time. We can, we must and we will do better.

"Sadly, these changes have come too late for this family. We acknowledge that staff made serious errors of judgement and we accept responsibility for those decisions and for the harm they have caused."

Coun Dorothy Turner, cabinet member for social and care services, said she was the link between residents and the department. She added her apologies and said that people must be shown that the authority was trustworthy.

There was fierce questioning of the panel at the press conference with most questions directed at Philip Evans including a call for him to consider his position.

He said that it was right for him to do that as the serious errors were made by staff in his directorate.

"We have an action plan that must be delivered and I am committed to that and it is important to see it through. It is not a time to walk away from these problems. Resignation is an easy thing to do but it would not be responsible. It's important to stay and see through this programme."

Confidence in Mr Evans was expressed by Coun Gordon Kemp, who said he was the best person to see the changes through.

"He has been in the post since the beginning of 2008 and my view is that he has done well. I am pleased with his work and confident that he will see this action plan through to a successful conclusion."

Vale AM Jane Hutt said that she would be meeting with Gwenda Thomas AM, the Assembly Deputy Minister for Social Services, to "discuss the actions she is taking to hold the Vale Council to account".

Jane Hutt added: "As the Children's Commissioner has said this was 'an inexcusable series of events', which resulted in a serious failure to protect the children who have been affected so adversely by these events."

Now Vale councillors cut their expenses!

COULD it be that Vale councillors anticipated the furore over MPs' expenses?

Whatever the reason, they have cut the amount that they claim for travel or representing the council at conferences by almost one third.

However, before Vale council tax-payers get too excited, it is best to point out that the cut is from £16,165.89 to £10,989.36 this year (the period from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009).

Councillors have been remunerated in total to the tune of £910,921.93, and the bulk of this is made up of the allowances they receive for being a councillor (up from £12,717.00 to £13,030.00).

Councillors with special responsibility get extra, with the Leader, Coun Gordon Kemp receiving an extra £30,732.17. However, this sum does not represent his full year's entitlement (£33,987.26), because he was not leader for the entire 12-month period.

Cabinet members and committee chairs receive smaller amounts. For instance, a cabinet member received £14,880.83 over the 12-month period.

A full list of the Vale councillors' allowances is published on page 7.

Royal British Legion's 'open day' well received

A Royal British Legion 'open day' was held in the Lesser Hall on May 8 by the Cowbridge branch.

Aerona Stooke, the legion's county field administrator, said: "We had a number of people who came to enquire about membership and welfare issues.

"We had six visitors very early on, and although it was quiet for a time more people came later."

Her colleague Ruth Henley, a community fundraiser, added: "One woman from Bridgend offered to help with the Poppy Appeal in November.

"As a charity we can only collect for two weeks of the year, and it is encouraging when people step forward to help with collections."

LEFT: Aerona Stooke and Ruth Henley of the Royal British Legion were at the Lesser Hall in Cowbridge giving advice to people on welfare issues, how to join the local branch and to explain what people should do if they wanted to help with the annual Poppy Appeal.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Grass verges

THERE has certainly been an improvement regarding the verges between Ferm Goch and the Ruthin Common, and also along the road through Llangan to Treoes village.

However, that is where the grass cutting has come to an end. There is a real need for the ditch between Treoes and the Horsefair Road to be cleared.

Saron Chapel, Treoes

THERE was disappointment at the number of Treoes residents who did not attend the communion service which was held on Sunday, May 17 at Saron.

One, of course, can understand residents of advancing years being unable to attend due to the inclement weather.

Those who did attend, enjoyed the service which was conducted by Mr Alwyn Evans.

Uninvited visitor

IMAGINE my surprise on May 17 when I was confronted with a very large Friesian bull, which somehow had jumped over the hedge from a field adjoining my home.

My garden is enclosed so how was I going to release Bully Boy? My concern was if it broke the fencing around the garden – he might injure a pregnant mare which is in my own field.

Bully Boy was becoming somewhat agitated. I thought he would probably end up in the fish pond. To my surprise, it ran towards a wall which is 5ft high and jumped over it!

My daughter and I thought it must surely have hurt its legs, but we could find no trace of Bully Boy and he has not been returned to the field.

These Green Drinks are not cocktails!

THE Bear Hotel, Cowbridge is providing the venue for a global social network, the Green Drinks.

First organised in London in 1989 by a group of eco professionals, this social forum for environmentalists has now spread to 494 cities worldwide.

In February 2008, 1,800 people met at Green Drinks events across the city of Melbourne in Australia, setting a world record.

Green drinkers include academics, students, government officials, local food producers or anyone curious about the environment.

Dinky Kennedy of Transition Cowbridge, said: "We were delighted that the Bear Hotel was happy to support this forum. It will give Transition groups, and others in Cowbridge who are interested in the environment, a chance to meet on a regular basis to exchange ideas, network, chat and listen to expert speakers in a social setting."

The first Green Drinks meeting was held on Tuesday, May 12 and will be held on the second Tuesday of each month, from 6.30pm-9.30pm.

For more information, contact Dinky Kennedy (01446 775686) or transitioncowbridge@googlemail.com

Bees, business, and a birthday

NEWS FROM COLWINSTON/ LLYSWORNEY WI

THE group held their annual resolutions meeting for consideration at the National Federation of Women's Institutes to be held at the Royal Albert Hall on June 3.

It was held at Colwinston Village Hall on May 11, attended by 20 members with one visitor. The meeting was split into three table groups for discussion and members were sustained with wine and finger snacks.

Initially, president Kath Jones welcomed everyone and then called on Hilary Jones to report on her visit with eight other members to the recent annual council meeting at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea.

The resolution 'SOS For Bees' was discussed, regarding the decimation of bee colonies and the worrying eco consequences for the crop pollination process.

Government and Assembly funding is now approximately £4.3 million but the bee population is falling drastically and funding and research needs to be focused. The proposal for support was carried by 18 votes, with a rider regarding additional funding.

After business, members joined in celebration of Marion Mollart's birthday and a cake was enjoyed.

On June 30, the group are visiting Nash Lighthouse, followed by a picnic or local pub visit, dependent on the weather.

On July 14, they propose visiting St Fagans, where they will enjoy an open-air performance of *The Gondoliers*.

The next meeting will be on June 8, in the Village Hall, at 7.30pm, when there will be a demonstration of handcrafted jewellery by Emma Hall. Visitors are welcome.

Llanfair school children take case to Assembly

CHILDREN and teachers from Llanfair School, Cowbridge were recently given a grand tour of the Assembly buildings by three AMs.

They were shown the debating chamber and the viewing gallery by Andrew RT Davies AM, a governor of the school, along with Jane Hutt AM, Education Minister and Chris Franks AM.

During a question and answer session, the children raised serious issues with the Assembly members. The need for a safe pavement to the school was one of their top priorities. The children felt that if they were to be encouraged to walk to school a safe route was essential.

The school is also seeking more playground space, and the pupils made a plea for permanent classrooms to replace terrapin buildings, which are in poor repair.

The three AMs all pledged to raise these matters with the Vale Council which is responsible for the school and the local roads.

SOS for the honeybees

LLANHARRY WI NEWS

THE meeting commenced with routine business, which included a report of the half-yearly council meeting held at Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, given by Barbara Jones in the absence of delegate Margaret Edwards.

Members from 87 institutes gathered together and the main speaker was Sara Edwards, who gave an interesting account of her career in broadcasting.

On April 29, several members enjoyed the Link Beetle Drive hosted by Ystradowen WI.

This is the first get-together for Llanharry since the formation of the new links.

The month of May is traditionally earmarked for Resolutions. There is only one this year – an SOS for honeybees and the resolution is calling on the Government to increase funding for research into bee health.

This was presented by Jill Rosser, the link delegate, who will be attending the AGM at The Royal Albert Hall, London, on June 3 and voting on behalf of the four institutes.

After refreshments provided by Rita Butt and Ros Griffiths, items on the cake and plant stall were quickly snapped up. The competition 'a posy of spring flowers' was narrowly won by Pat Forster-Brown.

The June meeting is a road, train and boat trip around Cardiff Bay, leaving Llanharry at 6pm.

He keepeth the Paths of Judgement, and Preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgement and equity; yea, every good path.

Proverbs Ch 2 V's 8 & 9 *(Cowbridge Christian Fellowship)*

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NEW COMPOSITE DOORS - *NEW* BI-FOLD DOORS - GUTTERING - PORCHES

Pupils walk out – but only to raise cash for Christian Aid

PUPILS at Cowbridge Comprehensive School recently met for the annual sponsored walk to raise money for Christian Aid.

The walkers set out from Cowbridge and walked to Llancarfan, via St Hilary, using a number of public footpaths.

They were grateful to Mrs Caroline Lyons for opening up the village hall in St Hilary as a rest stop and were impressed that Mr Tony Lewis, chair of the community council at Llancarfan, was on hand to greet the fundraisers as they arrived at St Cadoc's church, Llancarfan.

"The pupils were conducted around St Cadoc's church by Mrs Jean Veysey, the churchwarden, and were all fascinated to hear about the church's recently discovered wall mural depicting George and the Dragon.

"This is the second consecutive year that the religion, philosophy and ethics department have arranged a walk to support Christian Aid.

"This year, 47 pupils, six parents, five staff and a dog called Welly, turned out for the sponsored walk.

"Staff at Cowbridge School who supported the event felt that the presence of parents gave the walk a real 'community feel'. The school expect to raise in excess of £1,000 for Christian Aid," Mr Austin added.

ABOVE: Mr Tony Lewis, chair of the Llancarfan Community Council, welcoming Bradley Horsley (aged 12) to Llancarfan.

ABOVE: Walkers outside Llancarfan church.

NEWS FROM THE LLANTWIT MAJOR CHESS CLUB

THE junior members of Llantwit Major Chess Club aim to have an internal 'friendly' competition this week.

It will be on an all-play-all basis, and hopefully will give some of our newer members a chance to show off their improved chess skills!

Llantwit Major Chess Club is based at Tabernacle Church, Methodist Lane and meet on a Wednesday evening from about 7.15pm.

The club will not be meeting on May 27, as it is half-term, but re-start on Wednesday, June 3.

If anyone, of any age or ability, is interested in playing chess with us, then they are more than welcome to come along. For more details please contact Debbie on 01446 796208. **DC**

A special charity evening for Tom

ON Friday, May 22, Llantwit Major RFC mini and junior section are hosting a fundraising evening for local under-16 rugby player Tom Offer, who has cancer and needs urgent medical treatment in Mexico.

During the evening an auction will take place. A selection of the prizes up for auction include a signed Wales rugby jersey; a framed signed Scarlets jersey; a signed Cardiff Blues jersey; a week in a brand new apartment in Turkey; a round of golf on the Ryder Cup golf course with two nights accommodation in the Celtic Manor.

Former British Lion and Wales hooker, Garin Jenkins will be conducting the auction.

Tables and tickets are still available. For more information log onto llantwitmajorrfc.co.uk.

UNDER 14S SECURE THAT ALL-IMPORTANT FINAL WIN

ABOVE: Cowbridge under-14s can be proud after victory over Sully helped them to a second placed finish in the league. Turn to page 26 for a full report.

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

Under-13 gymnasts compete in British Schools event

THE school's under-13 team represented Wales as a region at the British Schools Gymnastics Championships held at Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke on Trent over the bank holiday weekend.

Leaving the Lower School at 6.30am on the Sunday the boys travelled up for a 10.30am start.

The two disciplines were the vault and big floor.

With eight regions from Britain, the boys were up against top quality opposition.

After an hour's warm-up the boys competed on the vault first and came up with excellent marks scoring above eight.

The floor is the more difficult discipline but the boys were up for the challenge.

The team finished sixth overall with a team score of 64.05points.

An excellent day was had by all and what an achievement to be able to compete at such a prestigious event.

Individual scores	Floor	Vault
Toby Swann	8.25	8.40
James Oddy	7.10	8.55
Liam Martin	7.40	
Elliot Mason	7.10	8.50
Jason Sami	6.70	8.75
Danny Price		8.25

CRICKET

THE first round match of the National under-15s Lord Taverners Competition took place at Pwll Cricket Club against Strade School, Llanelli.

On a very windy but sunny day, the school team, led by Joel Gehler, were confident of a good result when their opponents asked Cowbridge to bat in the 25-over match.

Wil Antoni went cheaply, but a stand of 54 runs by top scorer Joel (34) and Tom Francis (19) set a good start for the later batsmen to have a bash.

Unfortunately, the introduction of slow left arm spin bowler Owen Morgan changed the whole complexion of the game. He claimed four wickets for 10 runs in his allocated five overs. with five batsmen not registering a run.

The reintroduction of fast bowlers Gareth John (2 for 11) and Gethin Long (2 for 17) finished off the tail in the 24th over for Cowbridge to set a total of 95 runs.

Both the openers, though not scoring quickly, gave no chances in reaching 80 and none of the Cowbridge bowlers used could make any impression.

Bethan Moorcraft, Tom Francis and Joel bowled economically, but it was young Wil Antoni who gained the only success, bowling G George for 36.

His opening partner Owen Morgan carried his bat for an undefeated 38 and victory by nine wickets with a couple of overs to spare.

The club under-15s team played their first league match of the season when hosting Whitchurch at the Athletic ground.

This year group has only a small squad of players. It meant that all had a game.There were debuts for four players, George Brown, James Lister-Sims, Morgan Ethridge and Daniel Owen. All acquitted themselves well in their first match.

Whitchurch elected to bat first in the 20-over match. There were early wickets for Dan Lewis and Bethan Moorcraft (2), before Sam Williams (35 runs retired) and Hassar Achmar (12) put on 60 runs from the third wicket. The reintroduction of captain Alex Kurobasa (1 for 19) and Bethan (4 for 16) finished off the tail. Nick Oaks (2 for 12) and George Brown (0 for 21) bowled well.

However, all the bowlers were guilty of gifting their opponents 22 runs in either wides or no balls - Whitchurch's second top scorer. Whitchurch were all out for110.

Alex (20) Bethan (19), George (12) and James (9) all batted well but could not quite get up to the necessary run rate by the end of the 20th over and reached 84 for 6 wickets.

Those 22 extra runs gifted proved the difference between the two sides.

HW

TENNIS

YEAR-9 and 10 tennis team secured a comfortable win over Radyr Comprehensive School at the tennis club.

Top seed Will Campbell won 6-1, second seed Alex Kurobasa also won 6-1, as did third seed John Davies. Sam Street (year-10) lost his singles game 0-6 so the boys had to work hard in the doubles. Fortunately, John and Sam gained a great 6-2 win to claim the tie.

In the under-18 cup, Cowbridge fielded a young team with Matt Kamel and John Humphreys (both from year-8) playing against boys five years older.

With some outstanding play in the wet conditions, the boys won their singles matches 6-0 and 6-1 respectively. Alex Kurobasa then struggled in his singles game, losing 1-6, but a gutsy performance from Will Campbell saw him win 6-0. Will and Alex went on to win their doubles match 6-2.

The win puts the boys under-18 side into the quarter-final where they will play Christ College, Brecon.

ATHLETICS

Cowbridge took full teams to the recent combined athletics meet which was held at the excellent new venue at Leckwith.

The year-9 team consisted of Christian Roberts-Walters, Harri Hitchcock and Oli Hitchings.

Year-10 and 11 pupils Oli Trotman, Sam Morgan, Rhys Allin and Dylan Morgan respectively made up the middle team, while Tom Larkin and the ever-willing Steffan Kitchen battled in the senior category.

An outstanding individual performance was given by Oli Trotman who cleared 1.75m in the high jump followed with a PB in the shot putt of over 11 metres.

Rhys Allin finished his day with the fastest time for the 800m and was also a clear winner in his 100m hurdle heat.

Sam Morgan put in a solid all round effort and this weekend he finished in first place to win the south Wales Regional under-17 400m hurdles title.

Tom Larkin and Steffan Kitchen finished in second and third place in the senior boys event with some classy performances.

Cowbridge pay penalty for poor batting

DESPITE the weather forecast, Ammanford, Cowbridge Thirds' most distant opponents, elected to travel to the Vale in the knowledge that the all-weather strip would at least give some opportunity for play.

In the event, about 40 minutes were lost altogether.

Having only nine players was a considerable disadvantage for Cowbridge, but a spirited last wicket stand with Nick Oakes making 20 not out, left Cowbridge all out for 96.

Defending this with a very limited bowling attack was difficult, but George Brown worked hard to control the ball and achieved significant movement off the pitch, while Gethin Davies kept wicket tidily. All fielders ignored the wet to chase every possible stroke.

Ammanford made their total, although with seven wickets down, and there is no doubt that with a full side the outcome would have been reversed.

Former student James attends G8 youth summit

FORMER Cowbridge pupil, James Kerr, was recently selected as the UK delegate for the environment, from more than 100 student applicants at the summit held in the G8 host country, preceding the annual G8 summit of world leaders.

The aim is to be recognised as a panel representing the voice of the youth to the leaders of the G8.

The youth summit in Milan was organised and run wholly by students in the participating countries who met to discuss the economic crisis and global warming.

The culmination was the production of a final communiqué, which will now be sent to the leaders of the G8 nations before the main summit in July.

The communiqué calls on the leaders of the G8 to fulfil their responsibility to lead the world in a responsible way until the youth are ready to replace them.

James is now a student at Swansea University, studying history. He said: "It was a fantastic experience to meet students from across the world and to be able to express the views of young people."

He expressed thanks to Cowbridge and Llantwit Major Lions for their support towards the cost of his participation in the summit.

Llandow woman fights to finish her diploma course

A WOMAN from Llandow has spoken of her shock that she will not be able to complete her diploma course due to education cuts.

Andrea Walton, aged 46, has taken a humanities course at life long learning centres in Cowbridge and Cardiff, but the guillotine on her studies will come down in four months.

Andrea, a mum of two who hoped the course would help her professionally, explained: "I've booked and paid for tuition which I will receive, but then it will be stopped this side of September.

"I won't complete my diploma if the humanities course is closed down.

"I've done the course, which includes subjects such as archaeology and history, to help me in my work as a historical interpreter at Cosmeston Medieval Village."

Andrea said the course had been invaluable in helping her development, giving her access to books and documents that she could not have purchased.

As recently as March, she won a departmental award for achievement on her course.

She is now involved in a campaign to preserve humanities at Cardiff University's centre for lifelong learning, following proposals to end them.

She said: "Some life long learning courses have already gone in England. A friend of mine in Bristol has been affected, but I don't think they fought it.

"We are now collecting signatures for a petition and will be presenting it to the Assembly.

"Life long learning has been going on in Cardiff for 125 years – we mustn't lose it."

On Monday she, along with a number of other students, took part in a demonstration opposite the students' union in Park Street, Cardiff.

She said: "There were about 100 people with placards outside the students' union and more inside the building. Some politicians have indicated that we should have a right to complete courses, so I am feeling more hopeful."

ABOVE: Andrea took part in a demonstration on Monday and hopes there will be a u-turn in policy, enabling her to complete her diploma course.

Local dance school triumphs in Bristol dance eisteddfod

At the recent Bristol dance eisteddfod, which draws competitors from dance schools all over Wales and the south-west, four pupils from the Moya Vahey School of Dance won medals.

Bridget Lloyd James (age seven), from Llantwit Major, won a gold medal and the Tanya Allen Trophy for her ballet solo. Erin McLoughlin (age six), also from Llantwit, won a silver medal for her character dance.

Morwenna Brown, (age six), from Wick, and her brother Llewellyn Brown (age nine), both won bronze medals for character dances.

The school put forward competitors from across the Vale and Cardiff, all of whom received very high marks and encouraging comments from the judges.

The Moya Vahey School of Dance will hold its annual presentation in Cowbridge Town Hall on Saturday, July 11. There will be performances from some of the dancers, and money will be raised for Cancer Research.

ABOVE: Left to right: Morwenna Brown, Llewellyn Brown, Erin McLoughlin, Bridget Lloyd James.

COLWINSTON PLAYGROUP IN £1,500 BOOST

Carrie shows her true grit with 140 mile bike ride!

A DEVELOPMENT manager from the Vale village of Sutton has raised £1,500 for Colwinston Playgroup after a two-day 140-mile marathon cycle from Cowbridge to Coventry.

ABOVE: Parents and children from Colwinston Playgroup saw Carrie off on her marathon bike ride.

Seven weeks before the ride, Carrie Williams was involved in an accident while out training which ended up in her being taken to hospital by ambulance, but undaunted she still went ahead with the challenge.

Carrie, who works for the BBC in Llandaff, said: "Everything went well, and there were no mishaps with either me or the bike!"

She chose Coventry as her destination because that is where her mother, father and sister live.

Her aim was to raise money for Colwinston playgroup which her daughter Katie, aged four, attends.

"On the first day I went from Cowbridge to Ledbury in Herefordshire, which was 85 miles. I managed to cover the distance in five hours, 35 minutes.

"That first day was great, but very hilly from the Celtic Manor to Monmouth. It tested my grit and determination.

"The second day – Ledbury to Coventry – a ride of 60 miles took me four hours, 40 minutes.

"It was a really tough day because from Evesham to Coventry I was up against the wind."

Despite the physical challenge, Carrie would consider doing a similar ride in the future.

"Oh yes, I'd do it again – without a doubt. The sponsorship has been tremendous and it has all been worthwhile.

"My target was £1,000 for the playgroup and exceeded it by reaching £1,500."

The money will be spent on an outdoor area and garden for the children.

Snake wriggle

A RED-tailed boa constrictor, reported missing from an address in St Athan, has been found at the same address.

The seven-and-a-half-foot snake was reported missing from an address in Starling Road, on May 9.

Wildlife officer PC Mark Goulding and Rhys Jones a researcher in herpetology, the study of snakes, at Cardiff University, located the snake under a bookcase in the lounge of the property.

PC Goulding said: "I would like to reassure the community the snake has been found.

"The owner had searched the house and was unable to find the snake.

"We had searched the grounds and in and around the road. Snakes can reduce their size and become very small.

"When the sofa was moved to expose the hot water pipes, we found the snake had wedged itself in through a five-inch gap to jam itself under a bookcase which had a closed-in front.

"The local community did assist us in relation to searching their gardens as some skin from the snake had been found outside, and I would like to thank them for their help."

The snake's tank was damaged when it got out.

The snake will remain with Rhys Jones, a consultant herpetologist at Capita Symonds Consultancy, while the owner replaces the tank. It will then be returned to its owner. The snake is not a danger to humans.

Wildlife Officer PC Mark Goulding and Rhys Jones with the snake.

AM welcomes Lottery cash for Vale churches

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM, with Reverend Heather Barton-Jones and Gwen Armstrong at Cowbridge United Free Church.

VALE AM Jane Hutt welcomed the £135,700 grant aid decision by Heritage Lottery Fund for St Donats Church and Cowbridge United Free Church, and the earmarking of funds for Galilee Chapel (£187,500) in the Rectorial Benefice of Llantwit Major, enhancing the Grade One-listed St Illtud's Church.

Ms Hutt said: "We treasure the distinctive heritage of our churches in the Vale, and this substantial funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund is to be welcomed.

"I shall be visiting all the churches receiving support, but I am particularly pleased that Cowbridge United Free Church is one of the grant recipients, as a step towards opening up the church for wider community benefit."

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Midnight walk is a hit for Ty Hafan

GIRLS and ladies, aged 13 to 73, took to the streets of Cardiff for the first-ever Midnight Sleep Walk for Ty Hafan, the family hospice for young lives.

Many were accompanied by their favourite teddy, and some even by their dogs.

By walking the eight-mile route through Cardiff City centre, the ladies were showing their support by giving up a night's sleep to raise funds so Ty Hafan mums can occasionally get a well-earned rest.

Colleagues from Cardiff Airport were among the 500 participants dressed in pyjamas and flashing bunny ears who enjoyed the party atmosphere as they left the Millennium Stadium just after midnight.

Cassie Munton, Cardiff Airport's marketing and PR manager commented: "The 13 members of the airport team had a great night and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

"Although there were sore feet and aching legs at the end, it was worth it to help raise both money and awareness of such a worthwhile cause."

The target of 500 registrations was achieved well before the day, proving how popular charity walks have become.

"We have been delighted with the response, especially as it is the first time Ty Hafan has staged something like this," commented Craig Ananin, events manager.

ABOVE: Alison Doble from Barry waiting for the 'off' in the stadium. BELOW: Cardiff airport team.

What's on in brief

Cowbridge Art Society

TODAY (Thursday, May 21) at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge, there will be a practical evening of portraiture in charcoal with a model, given by Heather Simmons. Bring compressed charcoal, paper and rubber. Non-members are welcome to attend.

On Monday, June 1, exhibits should be handed in at 10am in Cowbridge Library for this year's summer exhibition and sale of pictures. This will continue until June 30.

Gardening Club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be on Thursday, May 28, in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge at 7.30pm, when the speaker will be Mel Bastier on willow weaving.

New members are welcome

Blood donor session

THERE will be a blood donor session on Tuesday, May 26, at Highlight Community Centre, Stirling Road, Barry, from 10am-6pm.

Vale Scouts renew their promises on the beach!

ABOVE: 'Time to renew the promise'.

ST GEORGE, the 'patron saint of Scouting', was chosen by Lord Baden-Powell for his courage, determination, and because he stood up for what he believed in – even in the face of great danger.

This is why , traditionally, on the nearest Sunday to St George's Day, April 23, Scouts gather to renew their promises.

This year, Scouts from the Vale District, groups from St Athan, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major, all met on April 26 at Llantwit Major Beach and walked in a group along the foreshore to Tresilian Bay.

Members of the Scout Association – Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Leaders and parents gathered to listen to reflections read by the District Commissioner both very appropriate for the location, followed by promise renewals for each of the sections.

We were blessed with glorious weather throughout the afternoon and everyone took their time to investigate the rock pools, fossils and caves on a very calm and relaxing afternoon.

The party sang an appropriate song:

Sitting on a clifftop, watching waves just roll along,

Candles softly flickering with a single, simple glow

Natural scented oils for when we're feeling low

Amidst the bustle of our race are places touched by peace

With God we find the inward calm, which storms of life can't cease.

The Vale District Scout council team try to think of different ways and new ideas in which we can renew promises each year.

Last year was the Vale Boundaries Cyclothon, where 40 members cycled in relays carrying the district flag around the area, a total of around 26 miles.

Inside the second baton was a special message to the Vale District from the Chief Scout, Peter Duncan, congratulating everyone on their achievement, much to the surprise of everyone!

Next year, who knows, perhaps a re-enactment of the legend of St George and the Dragon!

Scouts from the Vale have also been very active in raising money for the British Heart Foundation, taking part in the sponsored cycle ride around Llandow motor racing circuit.

"There were at least 30 youngsters from the Scout Association among those taking part. One managed 12 laps, but I know that a lot of people achieved far more. I knew that I was slowing down when a girl on a unicycle passed me," said the District Commissioner for the Vale, Simon Miskin.

Thank you to the Llantwit Major Branch of the British Heart Foundation for organising this event.

The Scouts practise and look forward to it each year.

If you would like further information about joining any of the Scout sections or volunteering as an adult, contact the Welsh Scout Council 01446 795277.

SIMON MISKIN (District Commissioner)

Lewis gets on his bike to help charity

Lewis Palmer at the finish in Tenby.

EARLIER this month, 15-year-old Lewis Palmer of Cowbridge Comprehensive School successfully completed a 100-mile charity ride from Cardiff to Tenby.

He was raising funds for the school charity project in South Africa, The Goedgedacht Trust.

The school has built up a relationship over the last two years with the trust, which aims to help under-privileged youngsters in rural areas.

About 35 pupils will be spending two weeks over there in July this year.

The ride was part of the Carten 100, an annual ride every May, and Lewis was one of more than 80 riders. The pupils are asked to raise funds towards the visit and Lewis has raised more than £700 from the ride.

Lewis would like to thank all those who supported him, and said that the sponsorship kept him going when it was tough. On the day, there was a strong headwind all the way, but it didn't rain!

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List of Members	Basic Allowance	Responsibility Allowance	Other Expenses	Total
Alexander, M (Mrs)	13,030.00	3,255.09		16,285.09
Bagstaff, S (Mrs)	13,030.00		132.77	13,162.77
Bertin, R	13,030.00			13,030.00
Birch, MEJ (Mrs)	13,030.00	976.42	783.73	14,790.15
Birch, R (Ms)	1,230.68	653.51		1,884.19
Bird, J	11,769.01	5,950.97	538.55	18,258.53
Brooks, B (Mrs)	11,769.01			11,769.01
Burnett, E (Mrs)	1,230.68			1,230.68
Charles, J (Mrs)	13,030.00	15,206.36	239.06	28,475.42
Church, P	13,030.00	14,880.83	299.05	28,209.88
Clay, C (Mrs)	1,230.68	653.51	220.44	2,104.63
Clifford, J	13,030.00	8,927.28	1,355.04	23,312.32
Cole, J (Mrs)	1,230.68			1,230.68
Cox, GA	13,030.00	14,880.83	834.67	28,745.50
Curtis, RF	13,030.00	1,627.59		14,657.59
Dobbinson, A	1,260.83	1,004.14		2,264.97
Drake, P (Ms)	11,769.01			11,769.01
Egan, S	13,030.00	1,627.59		14,657.59
Ellis, V (Mrs)	11,769.01			11,769.01
Elmore, C	11,769.01			11,769.01
Ernest, AM	13,030.00	14,880.83	991.00	28,901.83
Franks, C	1,230.68			1,230.68
Fraser, J	11,769.01	8,927.28	222.62	20,918.91
Gibbs, N	1,230.68	1,633.94		2,864.62
Hacker, E	13,030.00	650.88	634.70	14,315.58
Hampton, A	13,030.00	15,852.18	616.22	29,498.40
Hartrey, V (Mrs)	13,030.00	1,627.59	40.80	14,698.39
Harvey, M	1,230.68		64.13	1,294.81
Hatton, K	11,769.01			11,769.01
Hodges, NP	13,030.00	3,947.31		16,977.31
James, HJW	13,030.00	15,852.18	871.19	29,753.37
Jarvie, TH	13,030.00	16,368.87	570.89	29,969.76
John, G	12,649.50	1,455.10		14,104.60
Johnson, FT	13,030.00			13,030.00
Kelly Owen, M (Mrs)	13,030.00			13,030.00
Kemp, G	13,030.00	30,732.17		43,762.17
Kemp, K (Mrs)	11,769.01			11,769.01
Moore, AJ (Mrs)	13,030.00			13,030.00
Moore, N	13,030.00	10,717.70		23,747.70
Osborne, CL	13,030.00	5,950.97	458.24	19,439.21
Powell, A	1,230.68			1,230.68
Preston, A (Mrs)	13,030.00	6,466.99	1,013.46	20,510.45
Randall, M (Mrs)	13,030.00	1,627.59		14,657.59
Sharpe, S (Mrs)	13,030.00			13,030.00
Shaw, B	1,230.68			1,230.68
Stockdale, K	1,230.68	653.51		1,884.19
Thomas, J	13,030.00	9,898.63		22,928.63
Traherne, R	11,769.01	14,880.83	69.20	26,719.04
Turner, D (Mrs)	11,769.01	14,880.83	423.51	27,073.35
Vaughan, C	10,227.82			10,227.82
Wiliam, S	13,030.00	650.88		13,680.88
Wilkinson, M (Mrs)	13,030.00	10,554.87	84.17	23,669.04
Williams, Clive A	13,030.00	7,099.58	72.14	20,201.72
Williams, A	1,230.68			1,230.68
Williams, CJ	13,030.00	10,554.87	283.00	23,867.87
Williams, ET	13,030.00	6,601.84		19,631.84
Williams, S (Ms)	11,769.01	8,927.28		20,696.29
Wilson, M	13,030.00		127.25	13,157.25
Wright, M (Ms)	11,769.01		43.53	11,812.54
TOTAL:	608,893.75	291,038.82	10,989.36	910,921.93

The GEM has some more great news!

THE GEM has launched a 'live' on-line digital edition of its weekly printed titles.

Despite printing and distributing more than 44,000 copies every week, we have constant requests to increase copies beyond the Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend and Porthcawl.

In response, The GEM has made a major investment by developing its website into a digital version, using state-of-the-art technology.

Previously we have been pleased to reach readers from Penarth to Porthcawl; now we can proudly say that we are available to anyone who has access to the internet.

So if you have family or friends living outside our current distribution area – drop them an email and let them know that they can catch all the latest news and events in a completely digital on-line edition!

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llantwit-major-today.co.uk
bridgend-today.co.uk
porthcawl-today.co.uk

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Best-kept village shares its secrets

LLANMAES, this year's Best Kept Village in the Vale, is inviting rival villages to come and visit this weekend.

No, it's not an act of unusual generosity – villagers have a plant sale on bank holiday Monday and would like as many people to attend as possible!

A spokeswoman said: "We will have lots of colourful plants, both annual and perennial, for sale. There are also tomato plants and herbs, all at bargain prices.

"Entrance to the sale is free, but we will be selling teas, coffees, soft drinks and homemade cakes."

She continued: "We are also privileged to have a talk, at 3.30pm, on growing vegetables, by expert gardener, and village resident, Bill Lee. Proceeds go to our social committee, which organises events throughout the year."

The event takes place between 2pm-5pm on Monday, May 5.

For more information, telephone Gail on 01446 792543.

MAY FAYRE

A MAY fayre will be held in the Paget Rooms, Penarth on Saturday, May 30, between 10am-12noon.

Stalls include homemade cakes, preserves, gifts, plants and more!

Admission is 50p, includes coffee, tea, biscuits.

All proceeds to The Children's Society.

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BO-PEEP STEALS THE SHOW AT YFC RALLY!

THE Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, rally held at Pencoed recently, again had something for all the members – with a mixture of skills, crafts, talent and fun competitions.

One of the highlights was 'One Dame and her sheep'. Each team had to field a pantomime-type 'Bo-Peep' who had to whistle a blind-folded 'sheep' on all fours round an assault course.

There was so much hilarity that some of the 'dames' found it difficult to 'whistle' their commands!

Photos by Heather March

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‘Cruel’ father who horse-whipped his children is jailed for 27 months

A STRICT father has been jailed for 27 months at Cardiff Crown Court for horse-whipping his three young children to “stop them going off the rails”.

The man admitted using his riding crop on the children, aged between seven and 12, to make them behave.

The father, aged 52, denied it was cruelty - claiming he had whipped them “for their own good”.

But a judge branded him a cruel and controlling bully whose behaviour towards his children was “unspeakable”.

The father hit his children if they were late for a meal, were slow in coming home after playing outside, or even if they held a salt cellar wrongly.

Prosecutor Martyn Kelly said police were alerted to the father’s cruelty after one of his children rang them.

Officers found two children so terrified when they arrived that they clung to the police and begged them not to leave them.

The three children gave evidence against their father at Cardiff Crown Court over a video link.

One child told the court they would be hit with the riding crop if they disobeyed his orders.

She said: “He would say go and get ready for bed and if we began walking very slowly to get ready then he would hit you with the horse-whip”.

His youngest child said: “If I wouldn’t get ready for bed, dad hit me on the hand with the horsewhip quite hard. It made me feel sad”.

One said when his father hit him it felt like his hand “was on fire” and always left a mark.

The children said they would regularly hide the 70-year-old riding crop from their father to avoid his punishments.

The court heard how their father, a qualified engineer, was very religious and had taken a four-year university degree course in divinity.

The father said: “I used it as a deterrent. I’m trying to instill discipline into the children. I don’t wish for them to go off the rails.

“I’m actively trying to be a good father, to bring them up knowing right and wrong.

“I’m trying to instill discipline but children don’t like that - they like to run free from parental control.

“The riding crop is a deterrent. It would be used only on the palm of the hand, never to cause injury. I don’t hit them hard, I am extremely careful.

“I’ve never used it when I’ve lost my temper or when I’ve been angry or enraged.”

His lawyer, Eugene Egan, said: “He acknowledges that in 2009 it is not legitimate or acceptable to use a riding crop to discipline children.”

The father, from the Vale, was also found guilty of twice assaulting his partner, the children’s mother, who was 20 years younger than him.

Judge Stephen Hopkins QC jailed the father for a total of 27 months – 18 months for the assaults and nine months for the cruelty offences.

He told him: “Your behaviour towards your children was unspeakable and you are a cruel and controlling bully.

“The fact that you consider it appropriate to hit children with a riding crop, albeit on the hand, demonstrates you are a cruel man.”

‘GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE UNDER-ESTIMATED COST OF SEVERN BARRAGE’ CLAIMS AM

REGIONAL AM Alun Cairns has expressed concern about the findings of a study into the proposed Severn Barrage which has revealed flaws in government plans.

The study was commissioned by an alliance of environmental organisations, including the RSPB, The National Trust, The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the World Wildlife Fund, the Wye and Usk Foundation plus the Anglers Trust.

Respected engineers WS Atkins were asked to look at the short-listed proposals, and they have found that these schemes are based on out-of-date calculations.

“The report found that the government is using 30-year-old calculations for power generation,” he said.

“More worryingly, the report claims that the government may have seriously under-estimated the cost of the Cardiff-Weston barrage, which would also be very environmentally damaging.

“There are also concerns that environmental considerations have been given too little weight and that other less environmentally damaging schemes to generate electricity have been overlooked.”

Mr Cairns said that the organisations involved were all highly respected with reputations to protect.

“We must sit up and take notice when groups like these put their names to a report,” he said. “They are calling for the government to carry out a second study and I would support that.

“There’s a serious danger that the government will make the wrong choice and we simply cannot afford to get this wrong. Too much is at stake.

“I would prefer to see more research carried out into every aspect of these alternative schemes including their environmental impact and their true cost. Other alternatives that have been ruled out must be re-examined. Only then can a sensible and rational decision be made,” he added.

VALE PACT MEETINGS:

RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community Centre, Tuesday, May 26, 7pm.

SULLY PACT, Jubilee Hall, Monday, June 1, 8pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, Communities First Office, Tuesday, June 2, 7pm.

CADOC PACT, Palmerstone Community Learning Centre, Wednesday, June 3, 7pm.

ST ATHAN PACT, The Gathering Place, Wednesday, June 3, 7.30pm.

ST BRIDES PACT, St Brides Church hall, Wednesday, June 3, 6pm.

CORNERSWELL PACT, Cogan Leisure Centre, July 2, 7pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, log onto www.ourbobby.com.

Can you offer a loving home to best friends Riley and Shimba?

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

THIS WEEK, the Dogs Trust puts out a special appeal to keep two inseparable pals together in a loving new home.

Linda Feagan of the Rehoming Centre explained: "Riley and Shimba are a beautiful pair who we are hoping to rehome together.

"Riley, a one-year-old lurcher, is a worried little boy, who benefits greatly from living with another, well-adjusted dog – that is where Shimba, a two-year-old greyhound comes in.

"She is a sweet dog with loads of personality; she is very outgoing, and a little cheeky with it!

"She needs a little more basic training, which will also help build up Riley's social skills. They will make a great pair in the right home."

If you would like more information on Riley and Shimba, or any of the other dogs who are looking for a good home, visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, or phone 01656 725219.

Riley, Shimba and some of their friends are on the website at www.dogstrust.org.uk (click on Rehoming).

ABOVE: Riley and Shimba want to stay together if possible.

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MP backs increase in minimum wage

VALE MP, John Smith, welcomed the Government's decision to increase the national minimum wage as good news for low-paid workers in the Vale.

From October, the minimum wage for workers over 22 years old will increase from £5.73 an hour to £5.80, and from £4.77 to £4.83 for 18 to 21 year olds; and for 16-17 year olds it will go up from £3.53 to £3.57 an hour.

Mr Smith said: "I got involved in politics to fight for workers' rights. That's why I welcome this increase in the national minimum wage which will benefit many workers here in the Vale."

Ambulance queues probe is welcomed

NEWS that the audit committee at the Assembly is to investigate why ambulances are being forced to queue outside accident and emergency departments at hospitals, has been welcomed by Alun Cairns AM.

Mr Cairns said that South East Wales ambulances boss Grant Gordon has spelled out the reasons in his meeting with members of Cowbridge Town Council.

"He said in no uncertain terms that ambulances were unable to discharge patients at hospitals because there are no beds available for them to go into."

Mr Gordon was reported in The GEM as stating that he has had up to seven of his ambulances tied up outside one hospital at the same time because staff cannot hand their patients over.

Mr Cairns, who is also Tory parliamentary candidate for the Vale, added: "Patients are still waiting on trolleys in corridors for hours while bed managers run around trying to free up beds by sending people home.

"Of course, not all of this can be blamed onto delays at casualty departments and there are other factors in the equation."

Barnardo's SOS for foster carers

BARNARDO'S Cymru has sent out an urgent appeal for local foster carers.

"Last year there were more than 4,500 looked-after children in Wales, and three quarters were in foster care. It is estimated that at least 750 new foster carers will be needed over the next year," said Barnardo's manager Merril Roberts.

Barnardo's is looking for foster homes for older children who have emotional or behavioural difficulties; for disabled children with learning difficulties; and for 'ready-made' families of brothers and sisters who need to be fostered together.

For more information, contact 029 2049 3387 or log onto our website www.barnardos.org.uk.

MORE WOMEN SEEK VITAL CERVICAL SMEAR TESTS

THERE has been a huge increase in the number of women asking for cervical smear tests in the wake of Jade Goody's death.

A spokesman for the Joint Cervical Screening Programme stated that women in Bridgend and the Vale had been coming forward for these tests in record numbers.

Doctor's surgeries and clinics across the area have all reported a surge in demand. One practice has had to put on an extra weekly clinic and another is running six extra clinics a month.

Another surgery has reported a doubling of smear tests between January and April compared to last year.

One clinic saw the number increase from 31 in March last year to 97 in March this year – a trebling of the figures.

The number of women failing to turn up for these tests has also plummeted and some clinics are reporting a 90 per cent drop in these figures.

The unprecedented demand has meant that some women may have had to wait to get an appointment because, despite extra clinics, demand has outstripped supply.

Health authorities are urging women who are unable to keep their appointment to ring in, even if it's on the day, so that the slot can be given to someone else.

Women who are on a three-year recall should wait for their invitation letter, rather than try to go early – unless they have symptoms they are concerned about, in which case they should see their GP.

Laboratory staff are working flat out but are hitting their targets and women are able to get their results within four to six weeks.

Jeremy Gasson, who is the clinical director for Women and Child Health at the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Trust and who is a consultant gynaecologist, said that Jade Goody's death had brought the screening programme to the forefront of people's minds.

"That is a very good thing to come out of a sad situation," he commented.

CHURCH ORGAN FUND IS BOOSTED AT NASH MANOR

Report and photographs by HEATHER MARCH

ABOVE: Guests were able to enjoy a stroll in the garden.

ABOVE: Jenny Williams (centre) with members of the hard working committee.

ABOVE: A delicious supper provided by the hard working team.

ABOVE: The host at Nash Manor, Eric Williams (left) with guests in the lovely court yard of the historic residence.

A LINK with the distant past was made recently when the committee of the Llandaff Cathedral organ fund came to the Vale to hold a fundraising supper at Nash Manor, the beautiful home of Eric and Jenny Williams.

Chairman Jeffrey Morgan explained that it is documented that Nash was the position of one of the summer extra parochial residences of the Bishop of Llandaff in medieval times. It was called Osmund's Ash.

The remains of the Chapel of St Osmund was destroyed in 1963, when new houses were built in the grounds of the Manor.

The cathedral is working hard to raise money to build a replacement organ, and this delightful event was one of many functions taking place.

For details of other events, call the Cathedral Office on 02920 564554.

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

NEW ARCHDEACON

THE licensing service for the Venerable Peggy Jackson will be at Saint Cadoc's, Llancarfan, on Monday, June 1, at 7.30pm, and will be followed by a reception at the village hall.

IRISH NIGHT

THERE will be an Irish Night at the village hall in Llancarfan, on Saturday, May 30, starting at 7.30pm, featuring a traditional Irish supper and music from Colum Regan with, of course, a well-stocked bar.

This has been organised by members of the village bookclub. All proceeds will go towards the Wall Paintings appeal.

There will be a display of dancing by the Michelle O'Donnell School of Irish dancing in Cardiff and a bar and raffle will be available.

These nights have proved to be most popular in the past, so book your tickets early.

Tickets are £12.50 and are available from Joann Scott-Quelch (01446 781366), Kay Brain (01446 781070) or any member of the Llancarfan Book Club.

LLANCARFAN SOCIETY

THERE are various events scheduled by the society over the next few months, the first of which is a treasure hunt (on foot) in Llancarfan.

Entry forms will be available at the village hall from 6.15pm on Tuesday, June 2, with the event starting at 6.30pm.

Entry is £1 (children under-11 free). All entries must be back at the hall by 8.30pm and prizes will be given to the first and second highest scoring persons or family.

PETANQUE

THE Ruth Watts Memorial competition will take place at the village petanque piste on Sunday, June 28, starting at 1.30pm. Entry is £1 per head with teams of three.

It will be a 'bring your own drink' day.

WHIST DRIVE

THE next Llancarfan Society Whist Drive will be on Tuesday, May 26, at 7.30pm, in the hall. Admission as usual is £1.

PENTECOST

ZOAR Presbyterian Church, Bonvilston is inviting worshippers to spend a few minutes in prayer and meditation on Pentecost Sunday (May 30).

A church spokeswoman said: "The church will be open between 2pm-3.30pm for a chance to pray, think, reflect – a chance to be silent before God, and our minister Rev Adelaide will also be available."

Further information from the church secretary on 01446 781309.

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters should include an address and contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Public apology is called for'

I WAS somewhat disturbed to see an article in The GEM headlined 'Vale MP backs campaign to allow Gurkha soldiers to settle in the UK' – and a picture of John Smith with a delegation of Gurkha soldiers.

The MP had signed a parliamentary Early Day Motion to bring forward a new ruling on the rights of former Gurkha soldiers to settle in the UK. He went on to say that Gurkhas have been campaigning for equal treatment with other Commonwealth soldiers – "it is a matter of principle".

Well, can the MP please explain that when the Gurkha Settlement Rights came before the House of Commons on April 29 and the Government was defeated in an opposition day motion, why he voted against it? Why he did not support the Gurkhas?

After the Government's defeat, we then see him rushing out to sign this Early Day Motion. I bet the soldiers in the photo were not aware that he had voted against them.

Does the MP not realise that in an age where many homes now have internet access, we would be able to check on how MPs vote on issues?

I am very disappointed in our MP and think that he should make a public apology to those brave men.

Coun Russell Downe, Llantwit Major

'Can we know truth, please?'

ON page 7 of the May 7 edition of The GEM, you have a letter from Alun Cairns AM, reporting that John Smith MP voted with the Government against the Gurkha soldiers' UK settlement rights in the House of Commons.

On the same page, you show a photo of Mr Smith with a headline saying that he was at a rally showing that he was backing a campaign to allow Gurkha soldiers to settle in the UK.

Can we know the truth, please?

Stan Griffiths, Barry

Credit where credit is due

SINCE we are quick to criticise local public sector departments for their shortcomings, when services do meet our needs due credit should be given and made known.

While it may have been co-incidental with actions taken by others, within five days of my advising the Vale Highways department by e-mail of two large and deepening holes in the road on entering Colwinston and towards the A48, acknowledgement had been received, the holes in question 'yellow-lined' and filled!

Certainly, the lanes in the Vale are in continuous need of attention, however, such an immediate response shows recognition of the need to fix such one-off problems as they arise.

Equally, users of the recycling site at Llandow will have noticed since the change in contractor more than a year ago, a very great improvement in the service offered.

A clean, well-organised site with helpful staff has replaced the previously cluttered, badly laid-out area, manned by often unhelpful employees.

Full marks to Biffa, the contractors, and their staff.

Finally, in my limited experience, on reporting to the council dumped refuse in the lanes, these have been picked up within a reasonable response time.

While I appreciate many will say that this is the function of the council to whom we pay a significant charge through council tax, travelling across the UK shows that such attention is not always the case.

No, I am not a former council employee, but rather a retired incomer wishing to enjoy living in such a pleasant part of Britain!

Colin Jones, Colwinston

...and now to the question of councillors' expenses

IN view of the current economic climate in the country, can we now expect our local councillors to produce their expenses receipts for our perusal?

Marjorie Voaden, Rhoose

Gurkhas' rights and Vale MP

THE GEM'S postbag has been dominated by letters on the Gurkhas' controversy. Here is a further selection.

I SUSPECT that I am not alone in being surprised at the report in The GEM entitled 'Vale MP backs campaign to allow the Gurkha soldiers to settle in UK'.

From the title and content of the report, in which he stated: "This is a matter of principle", I would have assumed that Mr Smith had voted against the Government and in support of the Gurkhas on April 29.

However, a check of the House of Commons voting records reveals the opposite – and that he voted to oppose the Gurkha Settlement Rights motion.

Mr Smith seems to base his claim on his having signed an Early Day Motion (1362). EDMs are little more than petitions, rarely debated in the House and in parliamentary terms virtually never have any direct consequence.

To sign an EDM purporting to support the Gurkhas and then to vote against, in a debate which had almost identical aims, strikes me as odd.

To subsequently try and claim credit in your newspaper is disingenuous.

The report last week would seem, at the very least, to be misleading. Perhaps Mr Smith could explain why he voted as he did and how this could be, in any way, construed as principled or supporting the Gurkha soldiers?

Hywel Jones, Llantwit Major

'Outrageous to pretend otherwise'

I REFER to last week's article relating to MP John Smith's supposed support for the Gurkhas and am writing to protest at breathtaking hypocrisy.

Far from supporting the campaign to allow Gurkhas to settle, on April 29 Mr Smith voted *against* the motion to extend an equal right of residence to all Gurkhas.

It is outrageous and deceitful of him to pretend otherwise.

R Caple, Porthcawl

'Time to go'

HOW is it possible that our current Member of Parliament John Smith states that he fully supports the Gurkhas in their campaign for equal treatment which would entitle them to settle in the UK, and then votes against them in the Commons vote?

How can we believe anything that he says in the future? Time to go, Mr Smith. Goodbye!

Dianne Nicholls, Peterston-super-Ely

Explanation call

HOW come that John Smith MP is supporting the Gurkhas after voting with the Government in opposing the Gurkha settlement rights?

How hypocritical can one be? Will he give The GEM another interview to explain?

Leri Trivett, St Brides Super Ely

A case of too little, too late, Mr Cairns!

I REFER to the scandal of MPs' expenses which has raged over the past week.

During this period, I expect that many readers have missed an announcement regarding Alun Cairns AM, who will be standing in the Vale of Glamorgan for the parliamentary seat next year.

During last week, I was pleased to read that Mr Cairns will not claim in the region of £12,000 for his second home in future, which of course he has done in the past – living in Ewenny, of course, is so far away from Cardiff Bay.

I wonder if this has anything to do with the fact that the election is not far away, and he wants to remind the electorate what a good man he really is.

Gwyn John, Llantwit Major

A warning from the past about the BNP of today

I AM sure many of your readers will share my utmost revulsion at the way the latest BNP piece of propaganda arrogantly uses the spirit of The Battle of Britain, including the heroic battles of Dunkirk and D-Day, to promote their extreme right wing views.

But the truth tells a very different story. The hundreds of thousands of British people who gave their lives during the Second World War were fighting the same fascist and extreme right wing views currently put forward by the BNP.

They died so that Britain would remain a democratic and tolerant society, free from the politics of hate and victimisation.

After reading their leaflets, just replace the words "flood of immigrants into Britain" (BNP) with "living space for the German people" (Adolf Hitler) and "asylum seekers" with the word "Jew" and suddenly you are transported back to the dark days of the 1930s and the rise of fascist and Nazi parties throughout Europe.

Hatred and ugly racism has never been the British way. In the forthcoming European elections please, please, please remember the hundreds of thousands of British men and women who fought so bravely to free the world from the evils and cruelty of extreme right wing politics.

On June 4, vote anything but the BNP… choose hope not hate!

Rob Curtis (Vale Labour councillor)

MP and Bravest of the Brave

THERE is little doubt that the article and photograph relating to the rights of residency for Gurkha Soldiers in The GEM tells us far more about John Smith MP, than did his wrap-around puff piece some two weeks ago.

The Honourable Member for the Vale of Glamorgan would have us believe he is fully supporting 'The Bravest of the Brave' while he and all the other Welsh Labour Members, with the exception of Julie Morgan, trotted meekly into the Government Lobby in a bid to deny them the very rights he purports they should have.

Does he think that the electorate of the Vale are sufficiently foolish to be taken in – probably yes.

Are there no depths to which he will not stoop in courting popularity? On current form, it is unlikely.

James R Bevan, Flemingstone (Gurkha Welfare Trust Supporter)

Vale MP's 'blatant inconsistency'

VALE MP backs campaign to allow Gurkha soldiers to settle in UK' – please ask John Smith MP why he signed a parliamentary Early Day Motion on the new ruling on the rights of former Gurkha soldiers, when his voting record shows that he voted 'NO' on April 29 to their settlement rights.

This is outrageous. I hope people come to see and hear of this blatant inconsistency.

Gillian Bruce, Barry

Internet truths

IN his letter to The GEM on May 7, FMD Knill of Pendoylan states that John Smith MP voted in favour of the Government, to stop Gurkhas from living in the UK.

This is, in fact, true. I have checked and he did vote to keep the Gurkhas out of the UK.

Not only did he vote for this, he also voted in favour of stopping the people he represents having the promised referendum on the Lisbon Treaty.

Anthony Evans, Llantwit Major

LLANTWIT MAYOR HAS PICKED UP TORY TRICKS

I REFER to the report in The GEM dated May 14 in which Coun Russell Downe commented as follows: "Coun John should sit back and think about what's happened and stop playing the blame game".

I am surprised that Coun Downe is unaware that independents do not have a party whip and they are free to vote the way they wish.

This applies to Llantwit First Independents. The group discuss the issues and usually come to a consensus; however, if a member has their own view and wishes to vote differently from the rest of the group, they are free to do so – that is what 'independent' means.

Unlike political parties, there is no party whip to follow and in this case, the Conservatives enforced the whip, as I was led to believe by one of their members.

Nevertheless, it still comes back to the issue of nominations and quite simply, the Conservatives nominated Coun Downe; if they had not done this there would have been only one nomination, that of Coun Matthews.

Of course, Coun Downe has spent the last 12 months pestering members of Llantwit First Independents for support, in his attempt to split our group he obviously has picked up the Tories' dirty tricks.

Coun Gwyn John (Llantwit First Independent)

Crefft Kitchens
Bank Holiday Specials
FREE Neff Dishwasher or
FREE Large Gorenje Wine Cooler
with all kitchens

FREE 21" Flatscreen TV
with all fitted bedrooms
Open Saturday and
Bank Holiday Monday
Special offers subject to terms and conditions
Manufacturers and Suppliers of Luxury Kitchens and Bedroom Suites
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Tel: 01446 736421
E-Mail: paul@crefftkitchens.com • www.crefftkitchens.co.uk

25 - 29 MAY

HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

COWBRIDGE LEISURE CENTRE 01446 775533

TRY-A-SPORT
Monday 10am - 12pm, Monday 1pm - 3pm and Friday 1pm - 3pm. Choose from basketball, netball, dodgeball, rugby and football. Ages 5 - 11. Cost: £3.65.

BOUNCY CASTLE & SOFT PLAY
Sessions for ages five and under on Monday 9am - 4pm, Tuesday 1:30pm - 4pm, Wednesday 12pm - 4pm, Thursday 11am - 4pm and Friday 9am - 3pm.

FREE RUNNING / PARKOUR
Tuesday 11am - 1pm and Friday 4pm - 6pm. Run up walls, vault over equipment and leap around the Leisure Centre! Cost: £4.50.

BADMINTON BONKERS!
Tuesday 1pm - 3pm. Ages 5 - 11. Cost: £3.65.

TOM'S FOOTBALL
Tuesday 4pm - 5pm (for ages 5 - 7) and 5pm - 6pm (for ages 8 - 11). Cost: £2.80.

BASKETBALL BONANZA
Wednesday 10am - 12pm. Ages 5 - 11. Cost: £3.65.

TABLE TENNIS
Wednesday 1pm - 3pm. Ages 7+. Cost: £3.65.

CARDIFF CITY SOCCER SCHOOL
Wednesday 10am - 2pm. Call Nathan Nurton on 07737 834025 for details.

CRICKET & BASEBALL
Thursday 10am - 12pm. Ages 5 - 11. Cost: £3.65.

SHORT TENNIS
Thursday 1pm - 3pm. Ages 5 - 11. Cost: £3.65.

ARSENAL SOCCER SCHOOL
Thursday and Friday, 10am - 4pm. Play the Arsenal way! Call Allan Clarke on 07912 100131.

TRAMPOLINE
Friday 10am - 11am and 11am - 12pm. A taster session for pupils aged 11 - 15 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School as part of the 5x60 scheme. Please book through 5x60 officer Michelle Davies.

LLANTWIT MAJOR LEISURE CENTRE 01446 793947

SWIMMING LESSONS
Monday to Friday. 9am - 9:30am for stages 1 & 2, 9:30am - 10am for stages 3 & 4. Cost: £20.25.

FREE SWIMMING
Monday to Friday, 10am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm. Free swimming for children as part of a Welsh Assembly Government initiative.

SNORKELLING
Tuesday and Thursday, 10am - 11am. Fun and free, but you must be able to swim two lengths.

WATER POLO
Wednesday and Friday, 10am - 11am. All players need to swim two lengths. Free!

GO-KART SESSION
Wednesday 1pm - 2pm and 2pm - 3pm. Wacky races around an inflatable track. For under 8s. Cost: £3.75.

INFLATABLE MEGA SESSION
Monday 12pm - 1:30pm and 2pm - 3:30pm. An inflatable assault course, mega slide and bungee running! Ages 4 - 14. Cost: £4.50.

FUNDAY
Tuesday and Thursday, 10am - 4pm. A packed day with games, a mini Olympics and fun in the pool. Ages 8 - 11. Cost: £6.20.

BOUNCY CASTLE & SOFT PLAY
Monday to Friday, 9am - 6pm. Under 5s. Cost: £1.50.

ROLLER DISCO
Monday and Friday, 10am - 11am. Bring your blades or boards. For all ages. Cost: £2.

Please note that all children aged under eight must be accompanied by an adult. Minimum numbers may be required for certain activities to go ahead. Please ask reception staff about FreeStyle membership discounts.

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Adventure Island's new play frame is here

COMPLETE with giant slide, zip wire and a giant octopus, there is now so much more for your child to explore!

The little ones will also love our giant double-storey dolls' house, complete with fitted kitchen downstairs and sensory room upstairs.

Adventure Island play centre still has the friendly family-run atmosphere that offers good value for money and really cares about you and your child.

So come along and let their imaginations run wild – the perfect guide for fun no matter what the weather!

Adventure Island
Open Every Day 10.00 am - 6.00 pm
Buy one - Get one FREE on presentation of this voucher
NEWLY REFURBISHED PLAY FRAME
Giant Sensory Dolls House
Just waiting to be explored
Our Play Sessions
are one and a half hours of adventure and fun.
• Under 2s - £3 • Under 5s - £4
• Over 5s - £4.95
• Season tickets available
Parties from £7.50 per head.
• Chocolate Fountain Parties
• Face Painting Parties
• Dedicated Tiny Tot Parties
• Sumo Wrestling Parties
Snacks and a selection of hot and cold drinks available every day
Bouncy Castle • Play Frames • Arts & Crafts
Children's Parties • Dedicated Under 3s Area
Esplanade Buildings, Friars Road, Barry Island, CF62 5TJ
Telephone: 01446 733344
Email: bookings@adventureislandwales.com

Riverford Organic announces its latest 'veg hero' – rhubarb!

GET back to basics, says Riverford Organic Vegetables, and eat the great British veg that thrives in this country.

The award-winning farm has launched a campaign to champion the 'unsung heroes' of the vegetable world, giving a boost to vegetables that are unusual, underrated, tricky to use or hard to get hold of.

Now is the time to rekindle an affection for rhubarb. Despite being widely used in desserts, rhubarb is a vegetable; it's a member of the polygonaceae family and related to sorrel.

It was popular through most of the 1900s, but suffered along with many other of Britain's homegrown, traditional vegetables as supermarkets began to sell out-of-season fruit from around the world.

Rhubarb is easy to grow in Britain, as it enjoys cool climates and suffers very few pests. It also packs a flavoursome punch at the table.

"If you want traditional, seasonal produce, you can't beat rhubarb at this time of year," says Chris Morruzi, who delivers Riverford boxes in the Port Talbot, Bridgend and Vale area. "Try a simple crumble served with plenty of custard – and later in the season, throw in a few handfuls of strawberries too.

"Or make the most of its vibrant colour by swirling stewed rhubarb through creamy yoghurt for a super-quick dessert.

"Rhubarb's sharpness also works beautifully with meat and fish, so there's no need to confine it to pudding. It stores well and will keep in the fridge for a week or more."

Riverford, the nation's favourite vegbox scheme, grows more than 100 varieties of good value, seasonal produce on its farms around the UK. For more tips on growing and cooking with the seasons, see the Riverford Farm Cook Book, published by Fourth Estate.

Riverford veg heroes
The Natural and Organic Awards 2009
organic vegboxes to suit all households from just £8.35
or make up your own box from our range of veg, fruit, milk, eggs and much more (minimum order £12.50).
we also deliver meatboxes from £49.95
free delivery
call us on 0845 600 2311 (Quote ref:GEM)
or visit www.riverford.co.uk
WINNER Best Organic Retailer 2009

The Computer Man will help it work for 'YOU'

ANDREW, The Computer Man, has been trading from his office in Barry for more than 13 years and has built a large and loyal customer base of home users and small businesses.

With half-term holidays and exams here again, PCs are more important than ever, so why not call an experienced professional for a health check or upgrade and, don't forget 'Backup!' – it's too late once it's gone!

If you just want advice or need to recover/transfer that precious data, call Andrew and make the whole experience a happy one, with the computer working for 'YOU'.

THE COMPUTER MAN
Established 1996
• Computer upgrades & repairs
• Networking for small businesses
For friendly help and advice call Andrew
Tel/Fax: 01446 749118
Mobile: 07721 055 967
e-mail: andrew@thecomputerman.co.uk

Make a wish at Farthings, and have a great family meal

FARTHINGS is a well-established family-run restaurant in the centre of Cowbridge.

It is renowned for its superb home-cooked food – families are always welcome. You can be guaranteed a truly delicious meal when you visit Farthings.

We are also offering a classic two-course menu for £10 for adults at the same time, making a family visit excellent value for money.

Children love the original well in the centre of the restaurant, and a highlight of any visit is to throw a coin in the well and make a wish. (All money collected is donated to Cancer Research Wales).

There is also a large courtyard garden for the children to run around in to work off their supper, while the adults finish their much-needed half-term glass of wine! *Telephone 01446 772990.*

We currently have the following offers . . .
Children can eat 2 courses for £2
between 3pm and 7pm Tuesday - Friday.
Any main course from the children's menu with locally-made ice cream for dessert.
New Classics Menu - 2 courses for £10
between 3pm and 9.30pm Tuesday - Friday
New Coffee Loyalty Card
Buy 6 hot drinks and enjoy a 7th FREE!
54 High Street, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan
www.farthingsofcowbridge.co.uk
OPEN: Monday 9am-3pm, Tues-Sat 9am-9.30pm, Sunday 10am-3pm
Tel: 01446 772990

For Quasar, all roads lead to Barry Island

QUASAR, Barry Island, opened in July 1992 and has been popular for generations of children in Barry and throughout the Vale.

Great for parties, there is also a Quasar club for nine to 16-year-olds.

There are events every school holiday, and more than 650 junior members!

The activities are popular with girls, boys and adults.

Since Cardiff Quasar closed, a lot of students and families travel by train to the Island from Cardiff, Merthyr, Aberdare and even further afield, to enjoy a game.

Quasar
Buy 1 get 1 FREE
When you buy one game you get one free **only with this voucher.**
5 Station Approach Road
Barry Island – CF62 5TH
Tel. 01446 421611

WALES No1 QUASAR CENTRE
PRICE LIST & BIRTHDAY PARTY PACKAGES
Quasar BARRY ISLAND
WWW.BARRYISLANDQUASAR.COM
Please note: All players must be at least 7 years old.
Minimum numbers required for a party is 8 players. Maximum is 20.
Exclusive use of game is for 16 or more players.
The number of people booked for is the number of people charged for on the day.
Deposits are non refundable or transferable.

GAME PRICES	STANDARD PARTY	ULTIMATE PARTY	PARENTS
1 game of Quasar £3.50 per person 2 games of Quasar £6.00 per person	2 games of Quasar + Meal & Drink Duration: 1hour 30mins Price: £8 per child	3 games of Quasar Meal & Drink, Extra Drink, Birthday Cake, Souvenir photo for Birthday Child. Duration: Approx 2hrs 30 mins Price: £11 per child	STRESS FREE! YOU WON'T HAVE TO LIFT A FINGER AS YOUR CHILD AND FRIENDS HAVE A FANTASTIC BIRTHDAY PARTY

MEMBERS SCHEME - Pay £5 to become a member, then pay £5 every time you play.
9 - 16 year old welcome.
Saturday 10 am till 2pm • Sunday 10am till 2pm Come on Saturday or Sunday or both!
Play as many games as possible in four hours
Gain access to special events including competitions & all-nighters
Make new friends!
Get good fast!
Try new games and weapons
TRAINED IN LASER COMBAT
Barry Island Quasar, 5 Station Approach Road, Barry Island
Vale of Glamorgan, Wales, CF62 5TH
Tel 01446 421 611 - 9.00am - 9.00pm

Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Arbuthnot Opticians – friendly, caring, trusted

OUR practice has been established in Barry for more than 70 years and is now one of the most modern, independent practices in the country – we are friendly, caring and trusted.

We offer good value, good quality and, above all, choice, We stock a wide range of designer frames – Gucci, Giorgio Armani, Versace, Oakley, Miss Sixty, Jimmy Choo, Timberland, Prada, Rayban – to name but a few, all at competitive prices.

Arbuthnots want to make it easy for you to buy the glasses or contact lenses you want, because appearance is important. Ask for details of our easy payment schemes on direct debit.

We have a very large contact lens practice and lots of experience. We are members of the British Contact Lens Association, regularly attending conferences to keep abreast of everything that's new.

We have a great deal of success fitting children with contact lenses and it gives us great pleasure to see those children growing in confidence as a result of wearing lenses.

It gives them the freedom to enjoy sports and leisure activities without glasses, and the children just love it!

If you would like to know more, ring us on 01446 735551 or visit our website www.arbuthnotopticians.co.uk

The Three Horseshoes – a 'stunning' family pub

THE Three Horseshoes, Moulton, is renowned in the area for being a popular family pub serving a delicious array of traditional home-cooked food with local Welsh produce.

Specialities include Welsh black beef, and there are Welsh wines and beers!

Don't forget – pensioners' specials are available Monday-Friday lunchtimes.

Richard and Ian Peters, the owners, not ones for sitting still, are always looking for areas to improve. They are starting work on a children's fort in the outside play area, which is due for completion in early June, and they are also erecting new swings.

Visit this stunning family pub this bank holiday. You won't be disappointed.

Gymbabes – 'a fantastic introduction to the Tumble Tots programme'

EACH Gymbabes session includes gentle warm-up exercises to help strengthen muscles, massage, and songs and rhymes to develop listening and language skills.

The equipment time is where babies are free to explore and experience activities which will help them develop their crawling and walking skills.

All activities take place with trained staff to help you make the most of each session.

Gymbabes offers babies the very best start, particularly from the physical point of view.

All babies develop at their own pace and the sessions allow for this so they have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Gymbabes is a fantastic gentle introduction to the Tumble Tots programme.

Find out how The Gem is moving with the times! View our full digital version on line now, at any of the websites shown on page 2.

Kindermusik aim to help in your baby's continued development

NEW Kindermusik classes for babies from 0-18 months are just starting, so why not come and try a free class on Tuesdays or Fridays.

'Rhythm of My Day' is an eight-week course which will help you bring more rhythm and routine to your baby's day, as well as help develop lasting learning skills.

Research shows the more you expose your baby to nursery rhymes and songs, the stronger those emerging language-learning skills will be.

I'll show you how, and tell you why, music can help your little one.

You can bring home those same stress-free play and relaxation techniques from class, a colourful picture book, a set of art banners, and a rhythm instrument for music-making at home.

Contact Leonie on 01446 775048.

'Festival of Clowns' is a great day out at Margam Park this bank holiday

POP along to Margam Country Park for bank holiday Monday, May 25, and enjoy all the family fun of the Festival of Clowns.

Learn some circus skills with Jimmy Juggles, join Mr Bubbles, Dr Bob and Loopy Lews for children's shows and have a chat to the Upside Down Clown!

Why not dress up and enter the Best Dressed Clown competition (judging at 2pm).

Margam Castle is also hosting a craft and gifts fair. It is a great family fun day out.

Set in 1,000 acres of glorious parklands, Margam Country Park offers beauty, history, wildlife and a wide range of facilities to make it one of the best days out in Wales for all the family.

It has surprises around every corner, from the magnificent 18th century Orangery, an impressive Tudor-Gothic style Victorian mansion house, to the 12th century Chapter House.

New for this season is the redevelopment of the farm trail with improved paddocks, allowing you to get up close and personal with our farm trail friends!

Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Summer sounds with The Barry Music Shop

AS we are promised good weather for the summer, now is the time to 'grab a bargain' at The Barry Music Shop.

We have acoustic and classical guitars you can take anywhere with you, whether on holiday or just sitting out in the sun!

Take advantage of the massive 20 per cent off all guitars in store at the moment – this will not be repeated again this year.

As a local trader, we realise that funds are tight for everyone, but we still hunt down great deals for all of our customers, including great deals on guitar strings, even better prices on clarinet and flutes and not forgetting violins – from £59.50 for the complete outfit of violin case and bow!

Please do not forget that all our staff are experts in the music and sound worlds, and can offer help and advice on everything we stock.

We also stock the biggest selection of audio leads, connectors and adaptors in the Vale, also spares and components – if you do not see what you want, please do ask.

Call in and see us – you will not be disappointed.

JPL SOUND
The Barry Music Shop
Music4Kids
SpongeBob Guitars
SPECIAL BANK HOLIDAY OFFER
SpongeBob ½ Size Guitar Kit with Gig Bag
Was £32.99 NOW ONLY £25.00 while stocks last!
Classical Guitars in most Colours & Sizes
Prices start from £25.00 for ¼ size and from £25 for ½ size
Electric Guitar Starter Kits from £139
Stop Press News: Our 'May Madness' Event has been Extended - Now finishing 28th May
20% OFF ANY GUITAR
CORT - VINTAGE - CRAFTER - CRUISER - HOHNER
Applies to individual Guitars ONLY - Not Packages or Starter Kits
SPECIAL OFFERS ON CLARINETS & FLUTES
Odyssey Clarinet £179 NOW £109, Parchment Flute NOW £95
DUNLOP Guitar Strings - 1 Sets Promo Packs for ONLY £1.65
We stock Drums & Percussion, Full & Junior Size Drum Kits
Electronic Drum Kits - Electronic Practice Pads, Sticks & Skins
Tambourines, Shakers, Bells, Jingle Sticks, Maracas & more!
Black or Wine Full Size 5 piece Drum Kits - Special Offer £399
Professional Kits with REMO Drums heads - over £100 off RRP
Expert In Store Guitar Repair Service
267 Holton Road, Barry
(Weston Hill End!) Tel: 722711

Shopping is great fun for children *(and adults)* at Pool Farm!

FOR more than 60 years the Stanley family have established a fine reputation as suppliers of poultry and of beef, pork, lamb and free range eggs (from chickens, geese and ducks).

Brothers Glyn and John Stanley have now opened the Pool Farm Produce market, selling all of the above home-produced items, as well as vegetables, fish, honey and preserves.

Children will love a visit to the Pool Farm shop, as the paddock alongside is home to ponies, goats, and chickens. A little closer to nature than a trip to the supermarket!

One unusual feature is the 'honesty box' for egg sales. When the shop is closed, customers open up the box, take the eggs and leave the money.

Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday 9.00am - 4.30pm
Pool Farm
PRODUCE MARKET
(General public and trade)
SUPPLIERS OF:
Livestock and oven-ready poultry
Home produced beef, pork, lamb
Frozen fish
Bacon, sausages and free range eggs
Traditionally produced and smoked cheese selection, butter
Fresh and frozen vegetables
Preserves including honey, strawberry and champagne jam
Mobile 07929 824037; Fax 01656 880336
St Brides Major CF32 0SE
Generations of fresh farm produce

20% off at Scallywags!

MAKE sure you visit this half term, as there are great offers not to be missed.

We have fantastic ranges of swimwear from Timberland, Pampolina and Oxbow for babies to teens.

Also arrived are 'little linens', a lovely collection of timeless summer classics for boys and girls.

Our ever-popular Lelli Kelly are all in stock.

So with 20 per cent off all our ranges during half term, it's a great time to stock up on your children's summer wardrobes!

Call 01446 772104; 2 Willow Walk, Cowbridge.

PAMPOLINA • CATIMINI • OILILY • KENZO
LELLI KELLY • BONNIE BABY • LITTLE LINENS •
•TIMBERLAND • JEAN BOURGET • OLLIE

Celebrating 20 years!
20% off
all stock from Thursday 21st May until Saturday 30th May
SCALLYWAGS of Cowbridge
☎ 01446 772104
2 Willow Walk, COWBRIDGE
(Situated near Town Hall car park bridge)

Fontygary Leisure Park - Rhoose
Fun for all the Family . . .

WOBSTACLE
11am - 1pm
Every Sunday
FUN & GAMES
with Krazy Khiks
Every Sat/Sun
from 7.30pm
Sky Sports & Setanta
8ft x 6ft screen
Latest Sporting Events

Fabulous Health Club with weights room.
Great Rates Available
Bank Holiday fun this weekend!
Sauna, Steam, Jacuzzi and Solarium

Pool Room with Dartboard
LITE BITES
Now Serving Sunday Lunch

OPEN TO NON RESIDENTS
Telephone 01446 710386
Fontygary Leisure Park, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan

Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Café Cwtch backs baby survival campaign with Save the Children

CAFE CWTCH, High Street, Barry, opened their doors on Saturday, May 16 to welcome Jessica Evans, community fundraising executive for Save the Children UK, Jenny Ogwen and Derek Brockway to help raise money, and also the profile of this deserving charity.

The 'Go Tea-potty party' was held as part of Save the Children week (April 22-May 2).

Despite Derek's commitments, he agreed to still support the campaign and encourage others to have similar tea parties.

The money raised on Saturday was going towards saving new-born babies across the globe who are threatened by illnesses such as diarrhoea and pneumonia.

To find out more, download a pack from savethe children.org.cuk/goteapotty

ABOVE: Emma Lofthouse (Café Cwtch), Jenny Ogwen, Hilary Barber (Café Cwtch), Derek Brockway. In front: Jessica Evans (Save the Children).

Preparing your child for the next school year

CHILDREN will soon be moving up a year in school. Some will be changing schools, and some moving into their GCSE years. This is the time to prepare them all.

Our lessons in maths and English fill the gaps in knowledge, achieve potential and increase confidence. These are all important to help your child start the next year in the best possible way.

As well as term time lessons, we will be giving holiday lessons at the end of August.

We have an excellent reputation for giving a friendly, individual approach to your child's needs.

Phone us for further details so that you can visit the centre to find our more. Kip McGrath Professional Tutoring on 01446 700999.

Kip McGrath
Professional tutoring
✔ Mathematics ✔ English
✔ 6 yrs - 16 ✔ Qualified Teachers
For a free assessment call your local centre now:
Barry 01446 700999
Gain confidence in learning

Pick-up a bank holiday book bargain at Nicklebys!

NICKLEBY'S BOOKSTORE now has lots of offers to make books an even better bargain: a wide range of cut-price and second-hand children's and adult books, a new loyalty card for regular customers to earn discounts, and a new 'book exchange' scheme – bring two second-hand books into the shop and pick one from the shelves for free!

Don't forget, we are happy to give advice and, if the book you want is not on the shelves, we can order in most books within 24 hours.

Watch out, too, for our forthcoming events – see at the shop for details – 6 Poundfield, Llantwit Major, CF61 1DL; or phone 01446 795166.

NICKLEBY'S
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The Ship is shipshape and ready for the whole family to enjoy

A POPULAR pub in Barry is set to reopen its doors after a major refurbishment.

The Ship Inn on Harbour Road opens for business on May 20 at 11am.

The Ship, part of the Hungry Horse chain owned by Greene King, has had a major facelift including the fitting of a new kitchen and remodelling of the pub interior and beer garden.

"We have something to offer everyone," pub manager Alun Baker said. "There is good quality family food at an affordable price .

"The pub has a brand new menu with some great offers, including two meals for £8, burger and a pint for £4.99 and the launch of six new curries."

Regular customers will be amazed at the transformation inside and outside the pub, which include new family booths with private TV screens, a new sports bar with two pool tables, and plasma screens for the avid sports fan.

Sun worshippers can enjoy the new seating in the beer garden while letting the kids play in both the indoor and outdoor play areas

With regular entertainment including A 'Tom Jones Tribute' this bank holiday weekend, and upcoming promotions including charity days for the Wales Air Ambulance and Help for Heroes, as well as a competition to find Barry's best dad to celebrate Father's Day, The Ship really is the place for the whole family.

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Vale schools get top marks for their healthy approach

YOUNG people in the Vale celebrated their achievements through the Vale Healthy Schools scheme.

All Vale schools have been part of the scheme for 18 months. It is co-ordinated by the National Public Health Service through the Local Public Health Team, and actively supported by the Vale Council and the Vale Local Health Board (LHB).

Health issues which the schools tackle include food and fitness, emotional health and well being, the environment and global citizenship, pupil participation, working with the community and safety and hygiene.

A special day was held recently at the Barry Memorial Hall, and the audience was welcomed by a band made up of children and young people from Cowbridge schools, who played a series of lively numbers.

Jane Hutt, Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning and Skills, presented two pupils from each school with plaques and certificates of accreditation from the Welsh Assembly Government.

These marked their achievements in reaching their healthy schools targets over the past year.

Children from nine local schools demonstrated a range of healthy school activities which ranged from songs by the choir of a local special school to squash and street dancing.

Finally, there was a grand finale, with belly dancing from the pupils of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School.

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- Look after your eyes at Arbuthnots or Jones and Jones Opticians.
- Throw a party with Dr.Bobs Balloons.
- Cooking a Sunday roast? Go to Vic Hopkins butchers.
- Shop for a new baby at Smollany's.
- Nip out for a bite to eat or a drink with friends – at Vanilla, Oriental Diner, Scarlets or the Borough Arms.
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Out and About with The GEM

Hannah (11) is taking dancing into spotlight

ON May 10, open auditions were held at the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff for dancers to perform in the upcoming Hip Hop Production, *Pied Piper,* produced by Boy Blue Ent as part of the Breakin' the Bay Urban Arts Festival on June 12-14.

Hannah Bishop (11) from Barry was successful in attaining a place and will start rehearsing with the dance company and choreographer Kendrick 'H20' Sandy.

"This is an amazing opportunity for Hannah, who trains with YDance at the YMCA each week and the experience will definitely help her in her dance development. We hope that all who know Hannah will support her by going to watch her perform on the Donald Gordon Stage," said spokeswoman Emma Mallam.

RIGHT: Hannah Bishop.

Your chance to win a set of Tudor stamps

THEY ruled during one of the most famous periods in our history, now the Tudors are back on new stamps from Royal Mail.

The six stamps mark the 500th anniversary of the accession of Henry VIII and the House of Tudor, and readers of the Glamorgan GEM can win a set of the 'Regal' miniatures in our exciting Royal Mail competition this month.

The stamps feature six portraits from the Welsh dynasty that saw some of the best known of our Kings and Queens sit upon the English throne.

Val Bodden, media relations manager for Royal Mail in Wales, said: "Coinciding with the 500th anniversary of the accession of Henry VIII, this amazing set of stamps profiles the monarchs as well as the major icons of the era.

"This is the second set in our landmark Kings and Queens series of stamp issues."

To enter the competition and win a House of Tudor Royal Mail stamp presentation pack, answer the following question: Which of these kings hasn't sat on the throne?

A Henry **B** Charles **C** Kong?

Answers on a postcard, marked 'Stamp Competition', to Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, no later than Friday, May 29.

No correspondence will be entered into, and the judge's decision is final. *Good luck!*

The Angels and Demons can't save Tom Hanks in poor film

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

WHEN Tom Hanks and Ron Howard took their first journey into Dan Brown's world of Robert Langdon, in *The Da Vinci Code*, the results were surprisingly muted.

Huge box office takings couldn't disguise an underwhelming and unwieldy film that paid far too much attention to Brown's prose and not enough to action and story. Their second stab at the world, *Angels and Demons*, attempts to redress the balance.

This time around, Hanks' Langdon is asked to investigate when, following the death of the Pope, the Illuminati capture four cardinals, intending to execute one every hour before detonating a bomb in the Vatican. Teaming up with a scientist (played by Ayelet Zurer) and a priest (Ewan McGregor), Langdon faces a race against time to stop the Illuminati carrying out their threats...

If there were a series of books most suitable for big-screen adaption, then Dan Brown's Robert Langdon stories would fit into that category. After all, with an in-built audience and the cinematic nature of the stories being told, success would be assured; and *The Da Vinci Code's* worldwide box-office take of $758 million was hardly meagre, even if the critical response was far more lukewarm.

So the big question is whether or not *Angels and Demons* can emulate *The Da Vinci Code's* financial success and deliver a film that is not only capable of drawing in huge amounts of money, but also makes for a highly enjoyable cinematic experience.

The answer is sadly not; *Angels and Demons* is a ponderous film that only really grips in fits and starts, and, while perhaps more impressive than its predecessor, is still severely lacking in filmic smarts.

Having not read the source material (though aware that it is actually the first of Brown's novels), I went into the film without the expectations that no doubt hampered many people's experience of the first film. Yet the film left me relatively underwhelmed, lacking any real tension nor any real thrust.

Surprisingly, given the film's race-against-time framing device, there is little in the way of urgency or peril exuded by any of the characters. Despite the danger posed by the Illuminati and the fact that Langdon and company have roughly four and a half hours to save everyone in and around the Vatican, there is a remarkable calm; there's even the opportunity for Langdon to quip wittily like a Brosnan Bond.

Screenwriters David Koepp and Akiva Goldsman have huge experience in screenwriting, yet they struggle to convey the constant cliffhangers of Brown's novel into a cohesive flow.

While the story has little let up, and its relentless pace makes it a fast-moving film, Ron Howard's direction works on a very basic level. With an almost picture-postcard feel he frames the city of Rome and the other locations with a striking beauty, but his inability to mine any tension or create any sequences that really stick in the mind add to the film's general lack of excitement.

He creates one or two scenes that stand out but there is nothing that truly lives long, and is a step back for a director whose *Frost/Nixon* earlier this year proved so enthralling.

Performance-wise, Tom Hanks is saddled with less a character and more a cipher, explaining the plot and the various significant findings for those of us less well-schooled in the history of religion and art.

Hanks is more than likeable enough, his easy charm enough to deliver a satisfactory turn, but his is less a performance and more a history guide.

As the female scientist helping Langdon, Ayelet Zurer is practically anonymous, having little to sink her teeth into and even less to do, other than ask Langdon questions which set up the next part of the story.

Given the good quality of the cast in several small roles (Armin Mueller Stahl and Stellan Skarsgard put in fair shifts) it is only Ewan McGregor who pulls off something resembling a performance. His character's sub-plot is intriguing and interesting, and McGregor offers a suitably solid turn that stands head and shoulders above the rest.

Just about holding your interest to a conclusion that suffers ever so slightly from that celluloid affliction, telegraph-itis, *Angels and Demons* drags itself over the finish line without ever truly exerting itself. While it's a perfunctory piece of work that gently holds rather than grips, and an improvement on the last Langdon outing, it is still an inferior effort and far too wordy to enthral.

VERDICT – Less a summer blockbuster and more a historical lecture, *Angels and Demons* is a dull film that is all talk and no action.

While better than *The Da Vinci Code*, it is still a film that struggles to convey the sense of adventure and excitement in Dan Brown's pages into a satisfactory film. *Poor.*

Singers join new community choir

BUDDING singers throughout the Vale joined a new community choir with plans to perform at St Donats Arts Centre and St Donats Castle.

More than 60 local people attended the first rehearsal of the St Donats Atlantic Chorale on Monday, May 18, led by choirmaster Carl Grainger.

Both the arts centre and Carl Grainger, who is also director of the Welsh Sinfonia Chorus, were delighted with the huge response.

"Even in the land of song, the birth of a new choir is a rare and exciting event. I am thrilled by the enthusiasm of the local community and look forward to making music in the wonderful rehearsal and performance spaces of St Donats Arts Centre and Castle.

"They are both superb venues for choral music with magnificent spaces, perfect acoustics and an idyllic setting. The only thing missing is a resident choir – until now," he commented.

The choir's first public performance will take place this Christmas to follow last year's magnificent concert of Handel's *Messiah,* conducted by Carl and performed by The Welsh Sinfonia and Chorus in St Donats Castle.

For more information contact John Pengelly on 01446 799100.

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Out and About with The GEM

Fancy a day out at the races?

MORE THAN 100 entries have been received for the Countryside Alliance Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Redlands Park Racecourse, Bonvilston, this bank holiday Monday (May 25) writes Brian Lee.

There are 45 horses entered for the first race of the day – open maiden race – at 2pm. Twenty are down to run in the club members' race for novice riders, 16 in the men's open, 20 in the ladies' open, 32 in the restricted and 20 in the intermediate.

Many of the season's leading horses and riders will be in action, and an exciting afternoon's steeplechasing is promised over the popular racecourse.

All dressed up for a royal show!

SALLY KINGSBURY, playing Guinevere in Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society's forthcoming show *Camelot* by Lerner and Loewe, is pictured (below) in one of the dozen or so authentic costumes she will wear as Queen Guinevere.

Her husband Tony Kingsbury (chairman of CAOS) said: "Costumes were going to play an important part in the show and we are delighted with them. They look amazing and some of the best we've seen for *Camelot*.

Tony, who also plays Lancelot, said: "It is our 40th anniversary and as it was a special year, we felt that it was right that we put on a spectacle of a show for our audience.

"Many of our costumes are ex-RSC and are very authentic. We have been fortunate to have an excellent and experienced cast and chorus for *Camelot* and it promises to be a spectacular show."

Camelot is at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, Ham Lane, from May 27–30 at 7.15pm (special matinee performance at 2pm on Saturday).

Tickets are available on 0845 4592605.

Sally Kingsbury in costume.

WHAT'S ON IN BRIEF

Age Concern's coffee morning

AGE Concerns' Western Vale Good Neighbour Scheme is holding a coffee morning on Thursday, June 4 at the Llantonian Hall, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major, from 10am-2pm.

Admission is £1.50 and this includes tea, coffee and biscuits (plus top ups). There will be a variety of stalls, from home-made cakes, tombola, bric-a-brac, plants and a raffle.

Proceeds raise from the coffee morning will go towards the Good Neighbour Scheme.

It's a good opportunity to meet up with friends.

Tondu exhibition

THE Tondu and District Art Society holds its summer exhibition at the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig, on June 13-16, at 10am-6pm. Free entry.

Medieval village hosts warriors

COSMESTON Medieval Village near Penarth is the home of a reconstructed village of the 14th century, but on bank holiday Sunday/Monday (May 24-25), even more history comes alive at the village!

Victorian soldiers of the Zulu war will rub shoulders with the Royal Welch Fusiliers from the fields of Waterloo; while warriors of ancient Greece can be seen with the demure and cultured ladies of the Regency period!

There will also be Vikings and pirates.

Ticket prices are: Adults £5, concessions £2, family (two adults, three children) £12.

For more information, telephone 02920 701678.

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WHATS ON AT ST DONATS ARTS CENTRE

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World Class Cellist Julian Lloyd Webber
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Michael Chapman
"Brilliant folk guitarist" The Independent
Fri 12 June, 8pm
Cream Tea Concert
Midsummer afternoon concert with the Welsh Baroque Orchestra
Sun 21, 3pm (with free cream tea)
Drawing Class
Thurs 25, 10am - 4pm
August Bank Holiday
Shakespeare's Globe brings *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to St Donats Castle gardens
Mon 31 August, 6.30pm

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Llandow Race Circuit hosts British Heart Foundation cycle ride

by MIKE SMITH

THE British Heart Foundation is hoping a new record level of funding will be raised by the many young cyclists who rode around Llandow Race Circuit recently.

Children aged from four to 14 tried their hardest around the track, pausing occasionally for refreshments provided by the BHF committee.

Sharon Evans, who owns the circuit with her husband Tony, started the riders using a megaphone.

To minimise the chances of an accident there was a staggered start with the smallest children starting first, several of them riding alongside a parent.

The weather was glorious and while some families sat on the grass bank, others relaxed in their picnic chairs.

Although some keen children have already started collecting, the closing date for sponsorship forms to be handed in is September 24. Only then will the BHF know how much the event has raised.

Every group will be entitled to retain 30 per cent of their sponsorship for their own organisation's funds.

Certificates will be awarded to all participants and those raising more than £50 by the deadline will each be presented with a personal prize according to the amount they have raised.The BHF shield will be awarded as a team prize for the team raising the most sponsorship.

The pictures on this page were taken by MIKE WILCOCK.

They are available to order from wilcock60@aol.com or telephone 01446 774502.

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Wild garlic, bluebells and a butterfly!

THE theme of the walk was wild garlic on south Gower and nature did not disappoint as nine walkers met leader Joy to start their walk under a hefty shower.

Leaving Penmaen (meaning stone top) nestled under Cefn Bryn, the second highest point on Gower, they went by a quiet lane to reach their first woodland at Northhill and, following the slippery bridle path downhill through carpets of wild garlic and bluebells, they reached the road at Parkmill.

Here, during the 12th century, stood a water-powered corn and saw mill that has since been renovated and with crafts forms the Gower Heritage Centre.

Crossing the Pennard Pill River, they climbed narrow winding paths through woods where coats were hastily discarded as the skies brightened.

A short steep climb led to the golf course above Pennard Burrows, and a series of fields led them down through Southgate to the cliff top, where they were greeted by a stiff cool breeze blowing in from the sea.

Tramping over land owned by the National Trust, the group headed past Deep Slade and utilised some handy gorse bushes near an ancient fort to shield them from the strong sea breeze while enjoying refreshments.

Leaving the misty long sweep of Oxwich Bay long behind them, they passed two rock climbers at Pwlldu Head and continued along the undulating path, finally descending at Pwlldu Bay.

Here, they entered the beautiful wooded limestone Bishopston Valley with its carpet of wild garlic, bluebells and in contrast, the five-forked petals of tall Red Campion.

Walking beside the Bishopston Brook, they were fortunate to spy a male orange-tip butterfly, whose white forewings have a fiery orange band that clearly can be seen in flight. This was the perfect place as its caterpillars enjoy the Cuckoo Flower or Lady's Smock, both of which can be found in damp meadows.

ABOVE: Wild garlic on the slopes of South Gower.

Renowned for its caves, potholes and underground chambers, further along the group passed Gut Hole Cave or the 'guzzle- hole' where the brook roars and gurgles, almost drowning out the large variety of birdsong the wood encourages.

Their final climb led to Kittle village, where the group stopped on the green for a well-deserved lunch in sunshine, before tramping by field and road towards the direction of Swansea Airport.

A bridleway led across a small ford and a lovely sunken path took them to the tiny village of Ilston, where they walked through the churchyard into the Ilston Cwm.

Crossing several bridges over the brook, every single inch of the wood was smothered with wild garlic and its pungent smell filled the air as they stopped further on for a drink.

Uphill paths led to fields and the hamlet of Lunon, before more garlic-filled woods led them eventually to Parc le Breos, established in the 1220s by John de Braose, marcher lord of Gower.

There was time to examine the burial chamber, or cromlech, situated in the narrow flat valley and cared for by CADW, before wide pathways through Park Woods, on part of the 35-mile linear Gower Way walk, led to the back of Cefn Bryn and the short walk across open moorland back to the car park.

On May 23, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 10.5-mile moderate walk along the Bath sky line and please bring £1 for the toll bridge crossing; contact Val/Terry on 029 2059 5791/029 20 70 6315.

On May 24, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for an eight-mile moderate walk at Ogmore, Castle upon Alun and Southerndown; contact Val W on 01446 734925.

On May 26, the mid-week walk will leave Penarth cliff top car park at 10am for a seven-mile easy walk to Sully Island - please note the change of leader; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On May 28, the third summer evening walk will leave Cosmeston at 7pm for a four-mile easy walk along the coast and Lavernock beach; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Plug and play!

LLANTWIT MAJOR-based charity, Major Music, is promoting another of its 'Plug and Play' events at the Blacksmith's Arms in Llanmaes on Sunday, May 24, from 6pm.

Trustee and mentor with the Major Music project, Fraser Scott, explained that at many of the showcase events promoted by Major Music, members of the audience have often wanted to 'have a go' themselves.

"The event will give less experienced 'performers' the opportunity of trying a favourite song….or two. For the more accomplished 'entertainers' the stage is yours," he said.

"The event is open to young and old alike – it's about getting up and enjoying yourself in a relaxed and informal setting with friends and family."

Performers are asked to bring along their own instruments, but a full PA system will be available.

A 'music extravaganza' will also take place at St Donats Arts Centre on Friday, July 17.

For more information about Major Music, telephone 01446 792543 or 07966 281804 or leave a message on the website: www.majormusic.net

Bowlers struggle for early season form

IT was not a particularly successful week for the bowlers from the Murch, with both ladies and men's sections playing three games and winning one, while losing two.

The men recorded a welcome win in the Munro Cup game at Windsor Penarth by 62-54, but failed to record any success in their two Saturday games.

In the Welsh Club Championship game at Caerau Welfare, the hosts registered a four-rink win 84-53.

The rink skipped by Colin Garland and ably supported by Reg Davidson, Terry Mayor and Randall Pratt were the most successful of the Murch team, going down by just two shots, 13-15.

In the South Vale DBA 'A' Team Club competition, the Murch 'A' side lost by two shots (84-86) to visiting Millwood 'A' 10-4.

The Murch rink skipped by Alan Savage (up 19 shots) and Bernard Toozer (up one shot) were the Murch winners, while the rinks skipped by Randall Pratt and John Evans went down by 1- and 12 shots respectively.

The Murch ladies, meanwhile, gained a resounding 25-shot win at Fairwater in a Glamorgan League game.

While skip Gloria Perry's rink went down 8-15, the rinks of skips Judy Fudge and Cynthia Tranter won by 23-6 and 2-5 respectively.

Penarth ladies beat Murch ladies 4-25 in an Evening League game, the rinks of skips Belinda Price and Gloria Perry losing by 14 and one shot respectively.

In a ladies Double Rink game at Barry Central the hosts won 37-21, skips Pat Munter and Pat Ayres rinks losing 14-17 and 7-20 respectively.

TERRY NOLAN

SOCIETY AGM

COWBRIDGE Record Society held its annual general meeting at the Lesser Hall on Wednesday, May 13.

Following the meeting, members enjoyed a talk from Nicole Burnett about the value of household objects in teaching history to children. Refreshments were served, and those present were invited to view the recently-refurbished Cell Three of Cowbridge Museum.

JR

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VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8 OF: -
APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

DEVELOPMENT THAT MAY BE OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST
DEVELOPMENT THAT MAY AFFECT A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY
DEVELOPMENT NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

CONSULTATION ON TWO PLANNING APPLICATIONS

NOTICE is given that the following applications have been made to The Vale of Glamorgan Council:

Planning Application No. 2009/00500/FUL
Applicant: The Secretary of State for Defence, Metrix UK Limited and Sodexo Limited.

Location: Land at and adjoining MoD St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, extending from the B4265 at Boverton in the west to Castleton Farm, St Athan, in the east, and from north of the runway and north of Castleton Road at St Athan in the south to land at the northern end of the MoD St Athan site at Picketston and up to Flemingston Road, St Athan, in the north; together with land adjoining the B4265 near Gileston and land at Waycock Cross, Barry.

Proposal: Development of a **Defence Technical College** and associated facilities and works, including 483 Service Families' Accommodation dwellings, military external and field training areas, the alteration and reconfiguration of St Athan golf course, a hotel, an energy centre, improved parking and servicing facilities for the existing spar shop on Eglwys Brewis Road, the provision of a new access road and other associated highway works and improvements, including a garage for Rose Cottage, and all associated ancillary building, sports, community, ecological mitigation and enhancement, engineering, landscaping, means of enclosure and other works.

Planning Application No. 2009/00501/FUL
Applicant: The Welsh Ministers

Location: Land at and adjoining the **Aerospace Business Park** at St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan, extending from land adjacent to the B4265 at Boverton in the west to land adjacent to Cowbridge Road, St Athan in the east, and from the B4265 at Batslays in the south to land north of Boverton Brook in the north; together with land adjoining the B4265 near Gileston and land at Waycock Cross, Barry.

Proposal: Development at and adjoining the Aerospace Business Park, including: the erection of new and replacement buildings, airfield operational facilities and structures; the provision of access roads, hard standings and other infrastructure; security fencing; landscape and ecological works; garage for Rose Cottage; all associated building and engineering works; and related highway improvements.

The two proposals have been **accompanied by an Environmental Statement** covering both proposals which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the Environmental Statement at a charge of £150.00, from Entec UK Ltd, Pacific House, Imperial Way, Reading RG2 0TD (Tel: 0118 3775 600) so long as stocks last.

Please be advised that Members of the public may inspect copies of all the submitted documentation in connection with each of the applications, including the Environmental statement, at any of the following locations: -

- **The On-Line Applications Register via the Council's Website** at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
- At the **Council's Dock Offices** without appointment, from Monday - Friday, 8.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (4.30 p.m. on Friday). Please note that Planning Officers are not always available to discuss applications, however a Duty Officer is available to assist if required.
- At the Offices (by arrangement) at one of the following Town/ Community Councils: -

St Athan Community Council: Call The Clerk, John Haswell, on 01446 750452 / 750050
Llantwit Major Town Council, Town Hall, Church Street, Llantwit Major - Call The Clerk, Mrs Stokes on 01446 793707
Llanmaes and Llanfair - Call The Clerk, Mrs Griffin on 07969 204773

Please also be advised that arrangements have been made for the submitted documentation and display material to be available for inspection **between the hours of 9.30am and 7.00pm** at the following dates/ locations, with Officers of the Council available to assist with any queries and questions: -

- **Wednesday 3rd June 2009:** The Gathering Place, St Athan
- **Thursday 4th June 2009:** Llantwit Major Town Hall, Church Street, Llantwit Major

APPLICATION THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING

NOTICE is given that the application(s) detailed above might affect the setting of the following Listed Buildings: - Batslays Farmhouse (Grade II) ; Picketston House (Grade II); Church of St Brise (Grade II); Castleton Farmhouse (Grade II *); Bakehouse and Donkey Stable at Castleton Farmhouse (Grade II); The former barn at Castleton Farm (Grade II); Bethesda'r Fro Chapel (Grade II).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at *The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT*, **within 21 days of the date of this Notice**, quoting the relevant application reference number (or referring to both reference numbers if the comments relate to both proposals). Please note, however, that any comments received after the expiry of the 21 day consultation period will still be considered, provided they are received no later than 12pm on the day before the application is determined at Committee.

Dated: 21st May 2009

Head of Planning and Transportation

Contact OneVale 01446 700111 • www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

LLANSANNOR AND YSGOL IOLO PUPILS SHOW A REAL FLAIR FOR LANGUAGES

PARENTS, teachers, heads of staff and fellow school-mates cheered and applauded as children from Llansannor and Ysgol Iolo Morganwg primary schools performed in both French and Spanish for their annual language shows.

The French infants in each school sang *Allouette* and the Spanish infants sang an action song about a sick donkey, *Mi burro enfermo esta.*

The French juniors performed *Goldilocks 'Boucles d'or'* and the Spanish children performed *Snow White 'Blanca Nieves'* with their own Mexican-sombrero dwarfs.

All the children received certificates of attendance.

One child from each group was awarded a prize for special effort.

The junior prize winners from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg were Nia Fenn and Chloe Luxton, and from Llansannor school the winners were Laurie Thomas and Claudia Fevre.

In the infant department, Ysgol Iolo Morganwg winners were Nel Lewis and Anni Davies and in Llansannor, the prizes went to Erin Murphy and Keira Atyeo-Canter.

The children attend weekly session at their respective primary schools during lunch hour, where the languages are taught through play using games, songs and poems.

All the children also have free access to the award-winning interactive website *Babwelzone*.

Many will also be attending the intensive courses held during the summer holidays in Welsh St Donat's community hall, which mixes language learning with craft, drama, cooking and tasting French and Spanish food.

The clubs are run by Katherine Smith, who owns the local franchise for Le Club Francais/El Club Espanol Ltd.

Katherine said: "The end of term show is a wonderful opportunity to be able to give something back to the parents and supportive school staff. It is great to be able to show how much the children have learnt and how they clearly enjoy themselves.

"The drama course stresses the importance of real communication in the target language and is a wonderful boost to their confidence," said Katherine.

"The children have a huge advantage by being exposed to foreign languages at such a young age. The aim of Le Club Francais and El Club Espanol is to introduce a love for the languages and cultures of France and Spain."

Katherine also teaches in Pendoylan Primary School where she provides after-school language clubs four times a week and also teaches French to year-6 in preparation for secondary school.

"It is wonderful to see that so many Vale primary school children are being introduced to French and Spanish and a real credit to the headteachers at the schools for making it possible."

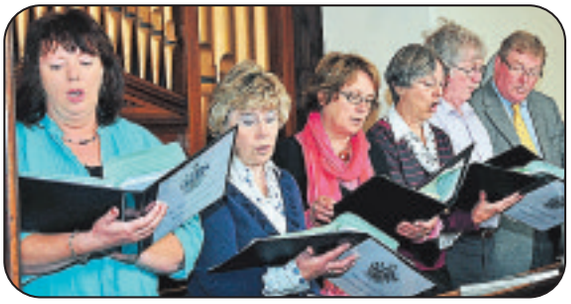
St Peter's music marathon hits the right note

ST PETER'S CHURCH, Peterston-super-Ely, held a musical marathon on Saturday, May 9, and a total of £1,300 was raised with half going to projects on the church and half to events organised by the Royal School of Church Music.

Mrs Enid Childs rang the first bell announcing the start of the marathon which ran from 9am to 9pm.

Among the musical delights were organ music performed by James Bull, tenor Iestyn Morris, Peterston Primary School Choir, St Donat's Choir and a variety of songs from international tenor Tony Morse.

Photos by IAN DIXON



Cowbridge victory against Pencoed

ONLY three games were played last week, with the men having a bye in the Carruthers Shield on Saturday.

The ladies in the Cowbridge Shield had a close win over Pencoed by 51-49.

Joy Woodford's rink lost 5-25; Judy Springett's rink had a 19-17 win, but Shirley Wilkinson's rink of Marge Smith, Sue Brewer (a new bowler) and captain Pauline McAllen, had a good win by 27-7.

In the league on Thursday, away to Cadoxton, they lost 43-53, with only Joan Bradley's rink of Diane Purnell, Kay Edwards and again Pauline McAllen winning 23-11.

The losing rinks were May Jones' (9-21) and Sue Flower's (11-21).

The men played their Munro Cup match, at home to Sully BC and, on a rare occasion, lost at home by 45-66, with Sully winning well on Byron Richards' rink by 5-27.

Dennis Snelling's rink also lost by 13-16.

John Trott, playing skip for the first time, had a win of 14-11, with the help of Ron Frayling, Bill Looker and Steven Dickens.

Norman Wilkinson's rink in another close match went into the last end all-square at 12-12. They won shot wood on the last end to win 13-12, with a lot of help from Charles Sanders, Jim Hewlett and Len Taylor.

NJW

Packed week for Cowbridge athlete

A PENLLYN family is celebrating after Jordan Carpenter, a year-7 pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School collected a hat-trick of awards within a week.

On May 9 at Cardiff Athletic Stadium, she took the silver medal at the South Wales Regional Athletic Championships in the 1,500m with a personal best of 5m 33s.

Three days later, she received her county colours for representing Cardiff & the Vale Schools at the Welsh Championships last February.

Finally, on Wednesday, May 13, she again took the silver medal at the South Wales Regional Championships, but this time in the 800m with another personal best of 2m 37s.

Jordan Carpenter.

Pyle and Kenfig GC proves it is a club with a very big heart

IT is well established in golfing circles that the members of Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club know how to enjoy themselves, and they fully appreciate the benefits of playing an outstanding course where they can enjoy the clubhouse and the camaraderie of the 19th hole afterwards. In short, they feel privileged!

However, they also appreciate that not everyone is as fortunate as they are in sharing this feeling of wellbeing, so every year the members are proud to raise funds for local charities as nominated by the current captain.

The funds are raised during various functions throughout the year, with the captain's charity day as the 'main event'.

At this annual event, members willingly pay (over and above their subscriptions) to enter teams and play a serious, highly-competitive competition, knowing that several charities will benefit from their entrance fees.

Also, there are supplementary fund raisers held regularly, such as raffles and auctions, which also benefit the charity fund.

The photographs show Geoff Vincent, in his year as captain, presenting cheques to various charities.

The club also presented cheques to Tenovus, Sandville Respite Centre and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Geoff Vincent, in his year as captain, presents a cheque to Wendy Richards of the children's ward, Princess of Wales Hospital.

Roger Taylor of Ty Hafan.

Geoff Vincent presents a cheque to Ffion Haf of the Meningitis Trust.

Superb fielding diplay almost gains Cowbridge a shock win

UNLIKE last Saturday, when poor catching let them down, this week excellent catching nearly brought a victory for Cowbridge Firsts in the most trying of conditions.

Heavy showers affected the match during the day to the extent that Cowbridge had 43 overs to bat – and Gowerton just 29 in reply.

Despite the rain affecting the number of overs bowled, and the wet playing conditions, the match exceeded expectations and became extremely tense as the outcome fluctuated from one side to the other.

In the end, Cowbridge came within a whisker and a wicket of winning for the first time this season.

The match did begin on time – thanks to the effective work of the ground staff and the new covers.

Gowerton won the toss and, obviously wary of the conditions, asked Cowbridge to bat. After numerous interruptions by heavy showers, Cowbridge's innings came to a close on 116 runs after 43 overs.

Tom Merilaht (44) and Jonty Webb (15) were the main scorers, with Chris Willey (10) and Nick Davies (12) adding some lusty blows towards the end of the innings.

A total of 116 runs, under normal conditions, should not have troubled the Gowerton batters, but these were not normal conditions, as during the tea interval a cloudburst curtailed proceedings to such an extent that the visitors' allocation of overs was reduced and the scorer was able to indulge in an extra cup of tea – accompanied by a fondant fancy!

The result of the prolonged break was that Gowerton now had 29 overs in which to win the match by scoring 117 runs – not a difficult task really.

However, a superb bowling performance by John Gilbert, who took six wickets for 47 runs in 15 overs, ably supported by Nick Davies, 1-44 in 11 overs, and Tom Merilaht, 2-9 in three overs, almost snatched victory for the home side.

Mention must be made of efforts in the field, as without these, the bowlers' analyses would not be so good.

Excellent catching by Nick Davies, Adam Woods, Jonty Webb, Chris Willey and Jonathan Evans, who took a simply stunning catch at square leg from a full-blooded sweep, plus a sharp stumping by Elliot Swallow, and run-saving fielding by Mike Lloyd contributed to a fine performance.

On 82 runs for three wickets, with seven overs remaining and only 35 runs to score, it appeared that Gowerton was heading for victory, but the aforementioned skills shown by the Cowbridge players reduced the visitors to 103 runs for nine wickets, as the home side nearly achieved an unlikely victory.

"It was an outstanding effort while trying to get that first win under our belts this season. Hopefully, it will be the catalyst for things to come," commented the captain after the game.

However, it was not to be. The tail-enders held out and the game ended in an unsatisfactory draw.

It is to the credit of the players from both sides, and the urgency of the umpires, that such excellent cricket was played in trying circumstances.

Next week, the First XI travels to Pontardawe and the Second XI is at home.

On bank holiday Sunday, May 24, the First XI play at home against BS Port Talbot in the second round of the Welsh Cup. Your support will be most welcome.

DL

WE welcome your news, views and sports items.
Please email them to the Editorial Department at:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Crusaders battle hard for that vital first victory

BRADFORD BULLS	**24**
CELTIC CRUSADERS	**30**

IN outstanding style, Crusaders achieved their first Super League win at Bradford Bulls on Sunday winning 30-24.

The victory was thoroughly deserved as the team outfought and outplayed Bradford from the start, playing with guts and determination.

Bradford's try just before the interval could have proved to be a sucker punch, but thankfully it didn't affect Crusaders.

Andy Lynch's touchdown put Bradford to within two points after 40 minutes and a lot of sides may have folded then. But the Crusaders kept going and earned their maiden victory.

The result completed a double header of matches at Odsal on Sunday.

The reserve sides treated supporters to a classic before the main encounter.

In first team match-up, Crusaders almost went over for an early try.

Jace Van Dijk and Josh Hannay combined to set up Damien Quinn in the corner, and it took the strength of Rikki Sheriffe and Nick Scruton to force him into touch.

However, they did get on the board from the next move. Van Dijk placed a grubber through, Dave Halley missed the ball when it took an awkward bounce and Chris Beasley did well to latch onto it.

After a series of tough sets, the Welshmen went close to a second. Ryan O'Hara made the metres, storming half the length of the field. Van Dijk's kick looked for Luke Dyer, with Scruton having to concede a goal-line drop out.

Josh Hannay, who had missed the conversion following Beasley's try, made up for it when he kicked from 30 metres, following a penalty interference.

Bradford had their chances. Terry Newton made a fine run but his pass to Paul Sykes went a little behind the former Harlequins' centre, causing him to mishandle.

In a highly defensive first half, Crusaders were excelling. A classic example came on the half-hour when Jamie Langley passed to Matt Cook, who was brilliantly tackled by Lincoln Withers and Josh Hannay. Dyer picked up a high bomb from the next play to completely defuse the attack.

Soon after, it was 8-0.

Van Dijk kicked another grubber aiming for Withers, who was brought down by Ben Jeffries. Hannay kicked the resulting penalty.

Bradford got into the game a minute before the interval. The grease on the ball due to the intense rain forced Ben Flower to fumble a grubber in front of the sticks and Andy Lynch capitalised. Deacon kicked the conversion to put them just two points down.

It took Crusaders just three minutes to get on the board in the second half.

After the tackle count had been reset when Crusaders were five metres from the line, Damien Quinn played the ball to Neil Budworth at dummy half and David Tangata-Toa forced his way over. Hannay converted.

On 50 minutes Crusaders struck again. Matty Smith produced a fine kick under the sticks ready for Withers to slide over. Hannay kicked the conversion.

After defending superbly following two complete sets of six within Crusaders' own 20-metre line, Michael Worrincy finally found his way over the line on 56 minutes. Deacon kicked his second goal to put them eight points behind.

However, Crusaders scored straight away with one of the most well-taken tries.

Van Dijk kicked a high bomb, Dyer caught the ball in mid-air while outjumping some of the Bulls defensive line.

It looked like he was hovering in mid-air while trying to place the ball down but somehow manage to do so before being pushed over the deadball line.

Hannay missed the kick.

Bradford capitalised on Damien Quinn having to take the ball into touch on his own five-metre line. The home side played a fine set following the scrum, ,culminating in Steve Menzies twisting and turning his way through to score. Deacon kicked the extras again.

A third Hannay penalty, kicked from the half way line following a high tackle on Ryan O'Hara, put eight points between the sides with seven minutes to go.

But the Bulls fought back again with Sykes on the end of a string of passes converted by Deacon.

That try came with just two minutes remaining and Bradford knew that they had to fight hard for a winner.

From the kick-off, Ben Jeffries took the ball into touch, giving up the possession that Crusaders didn't waste.

Jason Chan set up Luke Dyer in the corner to seal the win.

Bradford Bulls: Dave Halley, Rikki Sheriffe, Paul Sykes, Michael Platt, Semi Tadulala, Ben Jeffries, Paul Deacon, Andy Lynch, Terry Newton, Nick Scruton, Steve Menzies, Sam Burgess, Jamie Langley. Subs: Craig Kopczak, Julien Rinaldi, Matt Cook, Michael Worrincy.

Tries: Lynch (39), Worrincy (56), Menzies (67), Sykes (77). Goals: Deacon 4/4

Celtic Crusaders: Damien Quinn, Luke Dyer, Josh Hannay, Mark Dalle Cort, Anthony Blackwood, Matty Smith, Jace Van Dijk, Ryan O'Hara, Lincoln Withers, Mark Bryant, Jordan James, Jason Chan, Chris Beasley. Subs: Neil Budworth, David Tangata-Toa, Ben Flower, Mark Lennon.

Tries: Beasley (10), Tangata-Toa (43), Withers (50), Dyer (61, 79). Goals: Hannay 5/8.

UNDER-16 FIXTURE	
CELTIC CRUSADERS	**4**
SALFORD CITY REDS	**16**

CELTIC CRUSADERS showed a great improvement in their fourth Foundation Academy game, but still lost out 4-16 to Salford City Reds.

The Crusaders under-16s even took the lead for the first time in their four games.

It was a good passing move just after the quarter-hour mark from which Scott Gibson ran in near to the corner.

But Salford went into the interval 10-4 up after two quick tries from Callum Marriott, with one of them being converted by Alex Davidson.

Davidson ran in a try of his own with a second conversion after the break to secure the win.

The under-16s finish their short season of friendlies on Saturday with a tough trip to Leeds Rhinos.

Celtic Crusaders: Scott Gibson, Luke John, Jack Pring, Sean Wodden, Dan James, Danial Lloyd, Olly Olds, Bradly Thyer, Efan Ellis, Tom Davie, Jamie Sollis, Rhys Watkins, Ashley Bonser, Dale Evans, David Young, Nathan Peters, Gareth Comley, James Griffiths, Jacob Write.

Under-14s cap fine season with Sully win

A WEEK last Saturday, Cowbridge travelled to Sully for the final game of the season.

This was an important game, as a win would mean that they would finish second in the league rather than sharing that position.

Led out by Stuart Fleming, the game was always going to be a game of two halves due to the wind and slope.

Cowbridge played with the wind and slope in the first half, which was an indication that they wanted to finish the season with a win.

Cowbridge played a wide and expansive game from the outset with Jenkins and Mallows driving down the wings, and crossing dangerous balls for Barnett and Livingstone.

Sully were unable to compete in midfield with the dynamic tackling of Hewitt and Ingram

The defenders had very little to do as the game was played extensively in the Sully half, Lewis, Fleming, Lewis and Freeman must have wished they had worn their thermals.

Despite all the pressure and several shots on goal, Cowbridge were unable to score.

Half time: 0-0.

Stern words were dispensed with the Jaffa cakes at half time, and Lloyd, Scott Coombes, Price, Sami and Lewis entered the fray in order to secure a win.

Playing with the wind and slope, Sully pressured the Cowbridge goal, but were unable to beat Griffiths, who saved every shot.

Then Kye made a brilliant tackle and looked up. He chipped the ball to Jenkins, who sprinted past his marker and deftly chipped the ball into the back of the net.

From this point on, Cowbridge dominated the game and should have won by at least eight goals, but in the end when the final whistle blew they were happy with the three points.

Cowbridge's next game will be in a summer tournament on June 8.

AM

LATEST NEWS FROM PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

Deleted your deleted items? Kevin is on hand to assist!

THERE is nothing like a challenge, and Kevin was asked to talk about three topics.

The challenge was that although he could happily deliver a complete talk about each one, he needed to condense them down to a single evening. To the satisfaction of the Penarth Computer Club members, he managed to compromise and to cover his brief by the simple expedient of doubling the length of his 'chat', and throwing in an extra bit about using a virtual PC.

His ability to present his topics with clarity, and to just the right depth of information, means that he maintains interest the whole time.

Part 1 of this report notes the virtual PC and deals with un-deleting files; Part 2 (next week) will report on System Restore and Finding Files.

Kevin asked about operating systems: who used Windows XP and who used Windows Vista? Oddly enough, a show of hands revealed that those using the same system were sitting on the same side of the room (with a small preference for XP).

No problem for Kevin, who promptly demonstrated how to run Vista and open a virtual computer running XP within it. It puts quite a load onto the computer's processor, but enabled the variations between the two systems to be shown where appropriate. (There is a useful article on creating your own virtual PCs at http://www.rawcomputing.co.uk/virtualpc.html).

Members were then told how to undelete files. To set the scene, Kevin explained a little of what goes on when files are deleted.

In the first instance, they are sent to the Recycling Bin. At this stage, they have not been deleted at all, but simply noted for deletion when the Recycling Bin is emptied and they can be easily restored.

Windows simply makes the filename readable again in the folder where the file is stored. (If you are confident that you will not need to restore the file you can by-pass the recycling bin by depressing the Shift key as you delete the file. It is equivalent to deleting it from the Recycling Bin).

When the files are deleted from the bin, the file itself is still not actually deleted. What happens is that the index (File Allocation Table) on the disk is altered, and the space where the file is stored is made available to be written on. (Rather like removing the label from a video tape. The tape is now available to record another programme, but the original recording is still there until something overwrites it.)

Just as you could watch the video until it has been overwritten, so it is possible to recover the file until it has been overwritten. Some software will be needed to find it and read it. The longer the space is left available to be written on, the more likely it is to happen and once it happens, the original file cannot be retrieved.

At this point it is worth noting that if you delete everything from your hard drive when you dispose of a computer, there may be files that could nevertheless still be recovered. To avoid personal information being recovered and misused, you would be safer to use a programme that will deliberately overwrite the disc with garbage – perhaps more than once to be sure.

You could keep the disk and use it as extra storage capacity, or remove it and attack it with a sledgehammer to make it physically impossible to read. A bit extreme perhaps, but possibly therapeutic!

To recover accidentally deleted files, stop working on the computer immediately and run your recovery programme as soon as possible. The operating system is constantly reading and writing to the disk so the sooner the better.

To be able to run the recovery programme straight away, it makes sense to have it on the computer already, otherwise loading the programme could overwrite the very file you are trying to recover!

Kevin suggests a free programme, Recuva, from www.recuva.com. You don't want to be learning when you have an emergency on your hands, so he suggests loading it and exploring it to familiarise yourself with the way it operates.

In demonstration, the downloading and installing took just a couple of minutes and some files were deleted and recovered on the spot.

The programme looks for all deleted programmes in the areas designated and lists and categorises them as recoverable or not. Note that the first character of the filename has been deleted and replaced by an underscore. ("abcd.xyz would become "_bcd.xyz".) It is up to you to change it back after the file has been recovered.

The recovered file needs to be written to another drive (internal, external or USB). This is because you would not want a recovered file to overwrite the area that contains the next file you want to recover! Once you have recovered them, the files can be moved around as you please, of course.

There is a greater chance of recovering small files as they are less likely to be overwritten. You cannot normally recover files from a folder if the folder has been removed.

Penarth Computer Club next meets on Tuesday, May 26 at 7.30pm in All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth. Peter will be using plain English to talk about the cutting edge of mobile phone technology and what's on the way. Visitors and new members are welcome.

For more information, ring Howard on 029 2070 8439.

HD

Do you have a bear that would dare?

ST CADOC'S church (Old village), Cadoxton, is once again holding a sponsored Teddy Bear parachute jump on Sunday, May 24, at 2pm.

Each participating bear will undergo a medical in the state of the art first aid tent prior to their jump to ensure they are fit to fly, and on safe landing will be awarded a well deserved certificate of bravery. All parachutes are provided.

There will be a prize for the best dressed child's and adult's bear.

The event will also include a prize draw raffle, and barbecue.

Sponsor forms are now available from St Cadoc's (Old Village) church, Cadoxton, or telephone 749689.

The parishioners of St Cadoc's and St Mary's churches take part in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas child shoebox appeal, and last year were able to send 500 gift filled shoeboxes to needy children in Eastern Europe.

As we need to cover transportation charges for this year's appeal, we hope to raise as much money as possible, to enable us to reach even more children this Christmas.

All proceeds from this event are in aid of the Operation Christmas child shoebox appeal.

It's a double gold for the pupils of St Richard Gwyn!

JAMIE SEXTON, year-11 pupil at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, put last year's disappointing season behind him by claiming gold in the Cardiff and Vale Schools track and field championships for pupils in years 10 and 11.

Jamie captured gold ahead of rivals Jamaul Wyte of St Teilo's and Steffan Jones of Bro Morgannwg. After his success, Jamie competed in the regional championships on May 9 where he took another gold.

These achievements are a most promising start to his outdoor season, after being recently crowned Welsh indoor 60 metre champion. Jamie's goal now is the UK School Games in September.

In the meantime, he must focus on his GCSEs, closely followed by the Welsh under-17 and under-20 championships.

More success, but this time on the ski slopes, went to St Richard Gwyn year-11 pupil Ciaran O'Beirne, who achieved a consecutive gold in the unregistered Junior 1 (under-18) category in the Central South Wales Schools Championships.

Ciaran also added a silver medal to his gold in the overall unregistered secondary boys skiers in this regional competition.

Ciaran is also currently sitting his GCSEs at St Richard Gwyn and did a fantastic job achieving these results in the championships while studying

ABOVE: Ciaran O'Beirne

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Subject to # Job Evaluation and *CRB disclosure.

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x x x x

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Wishing you a very
Happy 18th Birthday
Love and Kisses Mum, Dad, Simon and Andrew
x x x

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Happy 50th Birthday on 20th May
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Family Notices

Bernard Williams

Ann and Clare would like to thank all the relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and sympathy shown during their recent bereavement and for the cards and messages of condolence and donations to HeartLine. Thank you also to Daphne Townsend for the lovely service and Bill Price for the readings. Finally thanks to John and Christine James of W James of Fonmon for their excellent care and service.

BURROWS

Raymond of Llantwit Major, beloved husband of Gwen, dearly loved father of Julie, Sarah and Andrew and devoted grandfather of Alex and Lewis.

Funeral on Thursday, 28th May, 2009, service in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 2pm followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery.

Family flowers only but donations may be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care (cheques only) c/o W A Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major.

Public Notices

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
ECCLESIASTICAL EXEMPTION (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ORDER 1994

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the procedures of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Baptist Union of Wales for the purposes of the above named Order, United Free Church, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan has applied to the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee for a Certificate of Authorisation to carry out the following works to their premises:

Replacement of existing slate roof with Spanish slate, new battens, felt and lead work. Re-rendering of exterior walls with lime render. Repair and replacement of external doors and windows. Removal of suspended sanctuary ceiling and re-plaster of original ceiling.

The Church building is listed Grade II and is in a conservation area.

Further details of the proposal may be obtained from Mr D Mitchell, Don Mitchell Associates, 39 High Street, Cowbridge, CF71 7AE, tel no. 01446 771218, email donaldmitchell@btinternet.com, with whom arrangements may be made to inspect the building and the plans and other documents.

Representations must be sent in writing to:

The Secretary
Listed Buildings Advisory Committee
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Baptist House
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and be received by 17 June 2009

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Dorothy SEWELL

Eric Sewell and his family wish to thank all their relatives, friends and neighbours for their support, messages of condolence, and sympathy at this time.
Also sincere thanks to all those involved in Dorothy's care.

Public Notices

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Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003
To whom it may concern

I Eugene James Lee, do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority (the Vale of Glamorgan council) for the variation of my premises licence registration certificate at The White Lion Hotel, East Street, Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan, CF61 1XY known as The White Lion Hotel.

The application is to allow amplified live entertainment between the hours of 18.00 and 23.00 Sunday to Thursday and to 23.30 Friday and Saturday.

Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to the Senior Licensing Officer, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU, not later than 28 days from and including the date of this notice (as below). Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the licensing authority's address during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5000.

Signed: Eugene James Lee
Applicant
Dated: 16th May, 2009

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LOCALS ON TOP AT CARDIFF AND VALE SCHOOLS MEET

FOR the second Cardiff and the Vale Schools fixture – the senior championships for sixth form students – it was Vale athletes who produced the top individual performances, and a local school claimed the team honours.

Two new championship bests were set – both by Vale girls.

Llantwit year-12 Ayla Phillips has an unblemished record at Cardiff and the Vale Schools track and field championships. Her link with the hammer event started way back as a year-9 pupil in 2006. She won that first junior girls' competition, and set a new championship best.

She repeated that pattern of a win with a new championship best through year-10 (first middle title) and last year, in year-11 (a second middle title). Each year, the winning distance has improved and 2009 was no exception.

As a first year senior, and competing at Cardiff International Sports Stadium in a hammer competition for the first time, Phillips claimed her fourth consecutive title with a throw of 35.11 metres, adding over three metres to the previous best of 31.63 metres set by Ceri Lewis (Radyr) in 2006.

Pleasing though that performance is, and the shot victory, which she also claimed, Phillips needs to keep working towards a target distance of 40 metres for the season.

Unusually, a second Vale pupil has a very similar record to Phillips. Penarth resident Elinor Lewis (Bro Morgannwg) was claiming her fourth consecutive title in possibly a more demanding and dangerous record – the pole vault.

Lewis also won her first title in 2006, but her 2.80 metres clearance was not a new championship best. However, she made up for that in 2007, when her 3 metres vault was a new event best.

A second middle title followed last year with a 2.90 metres vault, and this year, claimed a first senior win with a new height of 3.30 metres. For good measure, the Bro Morgannwg year-12 student also won the triple jump with a very respectable leap of 10.30 metres.

Two more Vale girls claimed double victories. Barry resident Sian Balchin (Kings Monkton) was the top thrower in both the discus and javelin events, while the multi-talented Maddi Edgeworth (Cowbridge) claimed a sprint hurdles and 800 metres double.

In the boys' competition, Curtis Matthews (Barry Comprehensive) was the athlete who caught the eye, repeating his Senior Cup Final feat of three victories in the high jump, long jump and discus, with improved performances.

The Welsh Schools' international has huge potential and is making real progress under the guidance of top combined events coach Mike Guest.

Stanwell year-13 Adam Jones earned a sprint double but he was the victim of a stadium, which seems, sadly, to have inherited the old Leckwith's biggest complaint of suffering from regular, unhelpful headwinds. He will be disappointed by his times, but this is early season and hopefully conditions will improve.

After Bro Morgannwg's double success at the Senior Cup Final, it was Cowbridge who enjoyed double team success at these championships.

Mike Lloyd (Cowbridge) won the 100 metres hurdles, and finished second in the high jump.

Last year, the Vale school won the boys' team title with a score of 340 points, with Whitchurch heading the girls' section. This year, the team took both sections with scores of 354 and 301, which puts them out in front in the quest for the Overall Championships Points Trophy.

Following these championships, Cardiff and the Vale will select a senior team to compete at the Aviva Welsh Schools' national track and field championships at the new Cardiff stadium on Saturday, July 4.

The district is entitled to enter two athletes in every senior event, with the option of further athletes in some events if all those nominated have achieved the additional entry standard.

All the winners at these championships are asked to make a note of Tuesday, September 8, which is the date of the Cardiff and Vale Schools Track and Field presentation evening, which will be held at Cardiff High School.

Results of Vale athletes: Senior Boys – 100: 1 Adam Jones (Stanwell) 12.0; 5 Fred White (Cowbridge) 12.3; 6 Jack Fisher (Cowbridge) 13.9; 200: 1 Adam Jones (Stanwell) 23.6; 3 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 24.7; 5 Dan Jones (Cowbridge) 25.6; 6 Matt Rowlands (Cowbridge) 26.5; 400: 2 Fred White (Cowbridge) 54.5; 6 Tom Harrison (Cowbridge) 59.4; 800: 4 Tom Larkin (Cowbridge) 2:25.8; 1,500: 2 Joe Beech (Cowbridge) 4:45.4; 5 Kyle Garrison (Llantwit) 6:38.6; 3,000: 2 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 10:18.4; 3 Steffan Kitchen (Cowbridge) 13:27.1; 110H: 1 Mike Lloyd (Cowbridge) 20.4; 400H: 3 Tom Williams (Bro M) 64.6; 4 Mike Lloyd (Cowbridge) 68.0; 5 Nick Davies (Cowbridge) 73.5; 2,000Sc: 1 Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 6:53.9; 4x100: 2 Cowbridge 47.6; HJ: 1 Curtis Matthews (Barry) 1.78; 2 Mike Lloyd (Cowbridge) 1.75; 4 Tom Williams (Bro M) 1.65; 5 Matt Rowlands (Cowbridge) 1.60; LJ: 1 Curtis Matthews (Barry) 6.35; 4 Tom Williams (Bro M) 5.82; 6 Cory Chadwick (Cowbridge) 5.38; 7 Dan Jones (Cowbridge) 5.20; TJ: 3 Cory Chadwick (Cowbridge) 11.98; 4 Nick Davies (Cowbridge) 11.13; SP: 1 Matt Wilcox (Cowbridge) 10.18; 3 Jamie Jones (Barry) 10.10; 5 Fred White (Cowbridge) 9.25; DT: 1 Curtis Matthews (Barry) 33.64; 5 Nick Davies (Cowbridge) 23.59; 7 Steffan Kitchen (Cowbridge) 18.53; HT: 4 Matt Wilcox (Cowbridge) 17.28; 5 Tom Larkin (Cowbridge) 14.27; JT: 1 Steffan Kitchen (Cowbridge) 34.81; 4 Kyle Garrison (Llantwit) 28.30; 5 Tom Larkin (Cowbridge) 27.95. Team: 1 Cowbridge 354; 4 Bro Morgannwg 71; 5 Barry Comprehensive 65; 8 Stanwell 34; 10 Llantwit Major 25.

Senior Girls – 100: 2 Heather Jarvis (Cowbridge) 15.5; 200: 1 Heather Jarvis (Cowbridge) 33.9; 800: 1 Maddie Edgeworth (Cowbridge) 2:53.5; 1,500: 2 Lucy Williams (Cowbridge) 6:24.5; 3,000: 2 Elspeth Bisson (Cowbridge) 14:16.2; 3 Alexa Kerr (Cowbridge) 17:24.4; 100H: 1 Maddi Edgeworth (Cowbridge) 22.2; 400H: 1 Alice Thomas (Cowbridge) 91.6; 4x100: 1 Cowbridge 57.8; HJ: 1 Rebecca Hoddart (Cowbridge) 1.25; 2 Maddi Edgeworth (Cowbridge) 1.20; PV: 1 Elinor Lewis (Bro M) 3.30 CBP; LJ: 3 Alice Thomas (Cowbridge) 4.16; 4 Georgia Evans (Cowbridge) 3.54; TJ: 1 Elinor Lewis (Bro M) 10.30; 2 Heather Jarvis (Cowbridge) 8.67; SP: 1 Ayla Phillips (Llantwit) 9.79; 2 Sian Balchin (Kings M) 9.11; 3 Katie Jarvis (Cowbridge) 6.70; 4 Rebecca Hoddart (Cowbridge) 5.66; DT: 1 Sian Balchin (Kings M) 22.20; 2 Jade Foley (Cowbridge) 17.12; 3 Gemma Bradbury (Cowbridge) 15.19 HT: 1 Ayla Phillips (Llantwit) 35.11 CBP; JT: 1 Sian Balchin (Kings M) 28.83; 2 Gemma Bradbury (Cowbridge) 21.41; 5 Jade Foley (Cowbridge) 15.71. Team: 1 Cowbridge 301; 3 Kings Monkton 49; 4= Bro Morgannwg 34; 4= Llantwit Major 34.

PM

Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro Morgannwg) won the 2,000 metres steeplechase.

Curtis Matthews (Barry Comprehensive) in high jump action. He also won the long jump and discus.

ABOVE: Elinor Lewis (Bro Morgannwg) set a new senior pole value best, and won the triple jump.

Heather Jarvis (Cowbridge) on her way to victory in the 200 metres.

GEM columnist Brian congratulates Princess Anne on royal win!

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

GEM columnist Brian Lee had an exclusive interview with Princess Anne after her horse *Dhu Loch*, trained by her daughter Zara Phillips, and partnered by Tom David (18), of Llanharry, had won the first division of the open maiden race at the Golden Valley Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Bredwardine on Saturday.

Brian (72), who has been reporting on the Welsh horse racing scene for more than 40 years provided us with this report:

There were several national and local reporters at the meeting but none of them went to speak to her after the race."

She was in the paddock with her daughter and Tom, who had just dismounted, and I said to her: "Well done, Ma'm".

Looking towards Zara and Tom she answered: "Not me! Those two did all the work."

The last time Dhu Loch had raced, the mare had been placed second at the Ystrad Taf Fechan meeting at Ystradowen on April 18, and the Princess had made a surprise visit to Wales on that occasion .

I said to her: "As a Welshman, and a member of the Welsh press, I had wanted this to happen in Wales."

She replied: "It was a more determined effort this time."

I told her: "Tom is one of our up and coming young Welsh riders."

With that she gave me a friendly tap on the shoulder and said: "You find lots of the good riders are Welsh jockeys."

I said: "Thank you very much." She laughed and I took my leave.

Dhu Loch, who went off the 5-2 favourite in a field of 13 starters, was given a cracking ride by Tom, who had the mare in a handy position throughout and, taking the lead four fences from the finish, went on to win by six lengths from Jolly Rock.

This week, Tom joins Aberthin National Hunt trainer Tim Vaughan as the stable's amateur jockey.

He said: "The Princess and Zara Phillips were delighted with Dhu Loch's success."

Dhu Loch was the second leg of a first-ever double for Tom who, earlier in the day, had won a division of the restricted race on 16-1 chance Wizard Time who is owned jointly by Porthcawl's William Corrigan and William J Tudor.

Wizard Time won by a short head from L'Homme Sauvage and is trained by Mr Tudor's son Jonathan.

Cottrell Park GC's Helen wins Miss Button trophy

A TOTAL of 42 ladies from Cottrell Park travelled to Chipping Sodbury for the captain's away day.

It was a flat but challenging golf course, with water on nearly every hole and if you managed to avoid the water, there were plenty of sand bunkers to catch you out!

The individual Stableford competition and the Miss Button Trophy was won by Helen Evans, one of the newer members of the ladies section. She scored a great 39 points, second was Alma Davies with 29.

Following drinks and a very good meal, Margaret Thomas, the ladies captain, presented the prizes.

She was in the winning team of Lyn Thomas, Norma Fryer and Margaret Thomas with 74 points.

Nearest the pin was won by Sandra Collin, who also won the longest drive for the low handicap section.

Helen Ruttley won the longest drive for the higher handicap section.

Sue Smith won the 12-hole putting competition with 21 putts.

A chipping competition was introduced this year; this was not easy but great fun, and was won by Toots Plant with two balls within the hoops.

Margaret Thomas was thanked for her excellent organisation of the day, and Jenny McGlyne for organising the competitions.

The ladies returned home tired but content after a very good day out.

CB

Helen Evans (Miss Button).

Toots Plant won the chipping competition.

ABOVE: The winning team of Lyn Thomas, Norma Fryer, and captain Margaret Thomas (centre).

THE LATEST NEWS FROM BRYNHILL GOLF CLUB

The ladies host a charity coffee morning for RNID

ON the morning of May 7, the ladies of Brynhill Golf Club hosted a charity coffee morning, the proceeds of which will go to lady captain's nominated charity. Jo Hopkins chose the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

Following a most enjoyable 12-hole competition, where the weather was pleasant and the course was in great condition, the ladies met back in the clubhouse for refreshments.

A stall selling homemade cakes and a sale of this season's latest golf wear proved hard to resist for many.

The lady captain then presented home and away winners and runners-up with vouchers.

Away winner – Helen Minto (Whitchurch) with 21 points over the back nine (from Ann Morris of Maesteg).

Home winner – Diane Davies with 26 points; runner-up – Glynis Gould with 21.

Carole Bumford was the only player to score a two and was delighted to accept the entire ball sweep, which she graciously shared with her playing partners.

Joan Coombes and Val Weir distributing the cards.

ABOVE: Carole Bumford, the ball sweep winner, with the lady captain.

Recent results round-up

March 17 – Turkey Trot – winner Julie Harkin with 37 points.

March 24 – John Collins Cup and GUW Medal – winner: Julie Harkin (77 nett), runner-up: Diane Davies (80 nett).

March 31 – Lady Reardon Smith Silver Salver – winners: Diane Tapscott and Nicci Meheut, runners-up: Rose Pitman and Audrey Phillips.

April 7 – Easter Egg competition – winner: Sue Holland (36 points), runner-up: Lynne Bubbins (35 points).

April 14 – John Lowden Cup and Foundation Brooch – winner: Gemma Evans (67 nett), runner-up: Maria Gentile (76 nett).

April 21 – GUW Challenge Bowl – silver winner: Lynne Bubbins (75 nett); bronze winner: Diane Bryant (74 nett).

May 5 – Winifred Clode Cup – winner: Carole Bumford (37 points), runner-up: Rose Pitman (36 points). **JP**

ABOVE: Helen Minto, the away winner, with the lady captain, Jo Hopkins.

ABOVE: The lady captain with home winner Diane Davies.

Murch Bowling Club's season begins with a glorious open day

THE best weather for several years saw the Murch Bowling Club celebrate opening day in glorious sunshine with a mixed game of ladies and men.

President Gwladys Hayes and vice-president Bill Frampton welcomed members and declared the green open.

The traditional opening 'Spider' (nearest wood to a bottle of whisky in the centre of the green) was won by Jackie Warman, who playfully resisted attempts from members to open her prize.

The winning mixed rink was skipped by president Gwladys, ably assisted by Bill Frampton, Maurice Warman and Myra Rice.

At the splendid post match buffet, provided by members, club captain Gus Santavy presented plaques to the winning rink.

Opening day festivities behind them, the ladies started their bowls programme with a 'friendly' encounter against Barry Athletic, narrowly losing by three shots, 43-46.

Gloria Perry and Cynthia Tranter skipped their rinks to 17-12 and 17-14 wins respectively, but skip Belinda Price's quartet went down 9-20.

This game was followed by an afternoon Glamorgan League game against the ladies from Windsor Penarth, which resulted in a 55-44 win for the Murch ladies, with Gloria Perry and Judy Fudge skipping their rinks to 19-13 and 23-13 wins, while Cynthia Tranter's 'four' succumbed 13-18.

Further successes were registered against Pontyclun (friendly) 78-65, Rumney Gardens (Evening League) 40-23 and Penylan (Afternoon League) 45-41.

The Murch men began their programme with three friendly games, winning against St Joseph's, drawing against Cardiff Masonics and losing against Barry Romilly.

However, no wins were recorded in the first three cup and league games.

In an Alliance game, Murch went down 38-48 against Barry Plastics, Cadoxton were victorious 99-52 in a South Vale A team competition, while Barry Romilly succeeded by 75-50 in a Munro Cup game.

ABOVE: President Gwladys Hayes with vice-president Bill Frampton at the opening day at the Murch Bowling Club.

James Tudor notches 150th between-the-flags triumph

by BRIAN LEE

COWBRIDGE'S James Tudor chalked-up his 150th win between-the-flags when winning the 2m 5f maiden race at the recent Vale of Aylesbury Point-To-Point Steeplechases.

He was on the Alan Hill-trained *Sir Ronan*, who won by 10 lengths from *Mirage Prince*.

Tudor (26), rode his first winner, *Mecca Prince*, at a West Wales meeting in 2000 and only three other Welshmen have ridden more. He has also ridden around 20 winners under rules, and he later took the intermediate on *More Trouble*.

Of the three Welsh riders who have ridden more winners, two of them are from the Vale.

They are the legendary John Llewellyn, who rode a total of 270 winners, and Evan Williams, who notched-up 198 winners before hanging-up his riding boots.

Carmarthen's Dai Jones bagged his 200th winner earlier this season.

All three of the Vale's riders have won the national riders' championship title. Llewellyn won it 1983, Williams in 2002 and Tudor in the 2006/07 season.

At the mid-week Weston & Banwell meeting at Cothelstone, Rhys Hughes, assistant trainer to Aberthin trainer Tim Vaughan, landed the men's open race on Steve Whistance's *Overlut,* who was winning for the fifth time this season.

The French-bred *Overlut*, who went off the 13-8 favourite, scored by 15 lengths from *Tyneham* who, like the winner, was bidding for a three-timer.

The Llangeinor mare *Lady Myfanwy* brought her season's tally of wins to six when coming home five lengths ahead of *The Bandit* in the ladies' open race.

This game mare has an outside chance of equalling the 10 wins of another Llangeinor-qualified mare *Chesnut Annie*, who heads the list of leading point-to-pointers in the country.

Ogmore's Nick Williams, riding Mrs B F Bowditch's *Lockerley Man*, won a division of the open maiden, getting home by a neck from *Mayfair Tambourine* and James Stephens was successful in the restricted on *Berkeley Court*, who won by a length and a half from *Ewar Finch*.

The South Wales point-to-point season is drawing to a close and enthusiasts have just the Gelligaer Farmers' fixture at Lower Machen on Saturday, May 23, and the Countryside Alliance Club meeting (Wales) at Bonvilston on Bank Holiday Monday, May 25. Both meetings have a 2pm start.

The open race at the Gelligaer will be a mixed open, but the Countryside Alliance meeting will stage a men's open and a ladies' open race.

Ten shots in three ends see Athletic home

ATROCIOUS conditions greeted Barry Athletic's first team in their opening WBA Carruthers Shield qualifier at Bridgend Municipal on Saturday.

Persistent rain and a bitterly cold wind made it a difficult afternoon for both teams, but the Athletic coped reasonably well and scraped home by six shots, winning 71-65.

Two Athletic rinks went down narrowly, while Glyn Thomas' rink managed a 14-14 tie.

Dean Rees' rink provided the match winning touch in real style and ran out victors by 23-11 to ensure an overall victory.

Dean's squad ended with a tremendous flourish - rattling up 10 valuable shots in the closing three ends. Garry Gane, Mike Vaughan and Geoff Whittaker were the supporting cast in Dean's line-up.

The Athletic senior squad, captained this season by DK Williams, have displayed encouraging form in all their early games and must now maintain their winning sequence when continuing their WBA programme this weekend, with a home game against Maesteg Welfare.

Barry Athletic's second string raised the curtain on the PG2 front with a 10-4 win against Penarth Rectory Road at Barry Island – a good start for new captain Eric Booker.

Ivor Stevenson skipped his rink to a runaway 34-10 triumph that clinched the match.

Scores: Barry Athletic at Bridgend Municipal: J Horgan, J Beanland, G Humphreys, R Horgan 16, H Jenkins, T Jones, M Jones, D Stephens 20. D Evans, JR Evans, DK Williams, G Thomas 14, D Job, N Walker, B Goddard, A Hunter 14. G Gane, M Vaughan, G Whittaker, D Rees 23, M Darra, A Davies, E Murphy, K Adams 11. D Snelling, M Eskins, JP Donovan, C Blake 18, P Anderson, G Caldwell, S Rees, D Vincent 20.

CLIVE PHILLIPS

Cowbridge squash club ends the season on a high

THE squash season in Cowbridge ended with a presentation night in the rugby club with an excellent attendance.

Club chairman Clive Prigg presented the prizes and commented on what was the club's most successful season since its inauguration 35 years ago.

Promotion for the men's A team and men's B team, and the winning of the South Glamorgan Cup, were the highlights of the team performances.

The men's championship was retained by Nick Guard, who beat Jon Bisson in the final.

Nick has also been selected to represent his country in the men's masters tournament.

Niall Sloan has just been awarded his level one coaching badge and, with Julie Clode, who is a level two coach, heads up the rapidly expanding junior section, which has been granted a silver award for coaching from Squash Wales!

So we look forward to an even more successful season starting in September, when the men's A team will battle it out with the 'big boys' in the south Wales leagues and the A team take on the best in south Glamorgan.

Junior coaching continues throughout the summer, any enquiries for junior or senior membership, contact Clive Prigg on 01446 773729.

BARRY FUN RUN WILL HELP FAMILIES FROM ACROSS WALES

REGISTRATIONS are already pouring in for the first ever Ty Hafan Barry Island Fun Run, and the family hospice for young lives is encouraging would-be participants to get their entry forms in early, so as not to be disappointed, as places are limited to 500.

The event, which takes place on May 31 and has replaced the annual Barry Waterfront 5K Run, has now been made more family-friendly by taking it off road and shortening the distance to 3.5K, which can be run or walked according to age and ability.

"Making it a family event has opened it up to a much wider age group and the day promises to be a lot of fun," said event organiser Alan Drury.

The funds raised through taking part in the run will enable Ty Hafan to continue offering its services to life-limited children, young people and their families, from across Wales, although many come from the local area.

Families like the O'Neils, whose 11-year-old son James has been spending time at Ty Hafan for the past eight years.

James has cerebral palsy and is one of four siblings aged between five and 13-years-old. His eldest brother has the condition ADHD (attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder).

"Knowing that James can go to Ty Hafan is nothing short of a life-line for me," said mum Michelle.

"When he is there I know he is receiving the very best of care and it means that I can give more attention to the other boys."

One of the first groups to register were Eagles Kick Boxing Club from Barry, who have a team of around 20 runners taking part, and they are hoping that other groups and families will take up the fun-filled challenge too.

You can get involved today by contacting Alan Drury on 029 2067 2067 or visit www.tyhafan.org/events.

All entrants will receive a free goodie bag and race souvenir when they cross the finish line, and individuals raising £30 or more in sponsorship will also receive a free commemorative t-shirt.

Entry is £7 for adults, £3.50 for children (under-16 years old) or just £17.50 for a family of four (two adults and two children).

VALE ROAD WORKS REPORT

Dock View Road at its junction with Thompson Street, Barry – ongoing temporary traffic signals, to allow construction work on the adjacent footbridge over the railway line.

Town Mill Road, Cowbridge – daytime temporary traffic signals to allow Western Power Distribution to install a new cable, May 26-29 (half term week).

Ty Hafan Run, Barry Island, Sunday, May 31: Station Approach road (between Breaksea Drive and Friars Road), Friars Road (between Station Approach and Paget Road) and Paget Road (between the unnamed road that leads to the sports ground and its cul-de-sac end) will be closed to vehicles between 7.30am-1pm to allow the event to take place.

Victorian Fayre, Saturday, June 20 – various roads in Llantwit Major town centre will be closed between 8am-6pm.

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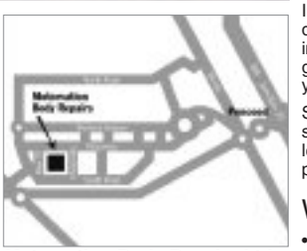

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165/70R13	Avon CR322	£36.22	£68	£130
175/70R14	Avon CR322	£44.98	£85	£160
175/65R14	Avon CR322	£39.81	£75	£145
155/70R13	Nova	£25.45	£50	£95
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195/65R15	Bridgestone B250	£65.41	£125	£240
185/60R14	Avon ZV3	£45.58	£87	£170
185/65R14	Avon ZV3	£50.23	£95	£185
195/60R15	Avon ZV3	£53.65	£105	£200
195/65R15	Avon ZV3	£51.73	£100	£190
185/60R14	Nova	£32.10	£62	£120
185/65R14	Nova	£32.43	£63	£120
195/60R15	Nova	£37.77	£72	£139
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195/60R15	Avon ZV5	£58.37	£112	£220
195/65R15	Avon ZV5	£50.85	£97	£190
205/60R15	Avon ZV5	£60.21	£117	£230
205/55R16	Avon ZV5	£62.28	£120	£235
195/60R15	Federal	£40.10	£78	£150
195/65R15	Federal	£41.34	£79	£150
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205/55R16	Federal	£49.71	£95	£185

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205/50R17 XL	Avon ZV3	£74.38	£144	£280
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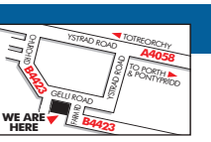

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05 **55 BMW 320Cd 2.0 TD Sport 2-dr coupe** in titanium silver with black suede interior, shark fin aerial, cd, steering wheel mounted controls, rear parking sensors, only 39,446 miles **£13,995**

02 **02 BMW 3 Series 2.0 318ti SE Compact Hatchback 3-dr.** In jet black with anthracite interior, parking sensors, multifunction steering wheel, cd, climate control, electric windows and mirrors, only 79,181 miles **£4,995**

01 **51 BMW 2.0 318i Touring 5-dr Estate.** In steel blue with jacquard grey interior, rear parking sensors, trip computer, CD, alloy wheels, only 69,830 miles **£5,995**

CONVERTIBLES

02 **02 PORSCHE Boxster S 3.2 2-dr convertible** in brilliant silver with black leather interior, 18inch sport design alloy wheels, wind deflector, heated seats, only 38,850 miles **£14,995**

02 **52 VOLVO C70 2.0T Convertible 2-dr.** In Silver with beige leather upholstery, air con, electric windows and mirrors, CD, alloy wheels, only 63,125 miles **£6,995**

05 **05 MGTF 1.6 115 Convertible** In ignition blue, rear glass screen, alloy wheels, CD, only 18,025 miles . . **£5,995**

99 **T MAZDA MX5 1.8i 2-dr Convertible 10th Anniversary Limited Edition.** In metallic blue with blue/black interior, alloy wheels, CD, alarm, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 42,422 miles **£5,495**

03 **03 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8 Petrol 150bhp.** In black, with biscuit leather interior, alloy wheels, CD, heated seats, only 32,000 miles **£9,995**

03 **53 MG TF Convertible 1.8 135 16v 2-dr.** In metallic silver with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, only 22,723 miles **£4,495**

EXECUTIVE/SPORTS

06 **06 VW Golf 1.9 TDi Sport 5-dr hatchback** in steel grey with grey interior, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 56,325 miles **£8,995**

06 **06 FORD Mondeo 2.0 Titanium X 5-dr Hatchback** in stardust silver with half blackk leather interior, quick clear front screen, 18 inch alloy wheels, heated front seats, cd, only 21,445 miles **£7,995**

06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi 5-dr hatchback** in panther black with Humy dark flint interior, cd, alloy wheels, air con, front fogs, only 27,325 miles **£7,995**

05 **55 VOLVO S40 2.0 Diesel** in amethyst with ivory leather interior, cd, alloy wheels, cruise control, sunroof, electric seats, only 34,255 miles **£9.995**

04 **54 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe.** In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles **£8,995**

04 **54 ROVER 75 Tourer 2.0 CDTi Connoisseur SE 5-dr Estate Automatic.** In Cimarron Greem with black leather interior, walnut dash and steering wheel, alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 48,180 miles **£6,995**

04 **54 HYUNDAI Coupe 1.6S 3-dr Coupe** in smart silver with dark interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, alarm, only 46,770 miles **£5,495**

03 **53 MERCEDES S350 Automatic 3.7 Petrol 4-dr Saloon.** In brilliant silver with black leather, automatic climate control, walnut wood trim, sat nav, heated seats, CD, front and rear parking sensors, alloy wheels, full Mercedes service history, only 78,700 miles **£12,995**

02 **52 AUDI A4 SE 2.0 Petrol 4-dr Saloon Automatic.** In Crystal Blue with phoenix cloth interior, parking sensors on front and rear, air con, CD, alloy wheels, electric windows, only 55,560 miles **£5,995**

ECONOMICAL SMALL CARS

08 **57 FORD Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback.** In apple green with Cascade indigo interior, climate control, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, heated front screen, only 3,873 miles **£5,995**

07 **07 FORD Fusion Zetec Climate 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In metallic tango red with onyx dream interior, alloy wheels, chrome front grille surround, front fog lights, trip computer, air con, only 10,870 miles **£6,995**

07 **07 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr Hatchback** in aluminium silver with Madison graphite interior, air con, cd, electric front windows, only 9,120 miles **£6,495**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In metallic black with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, front electric windows, only 19,005 miles **£6,495**

07 **07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5-dr Hatchback.** In chemical gray with drop blue black interior, central locking, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 22,120 miles **£5,795**

06 **56 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback** in tonic blue with tungsten/denim interior, air con, alloy wheels, quick clear screen, cd, front fogs, only 24,250 miles **£6,495**

06 **06 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 3-dr Hatchback.** In onyx black with madison grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, CD, low insurance, only 14,545 miles **£5,995**

06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback.** In odyssey blue with jacquard black interior, front fogs, alloy wheels, CD, only 35,870 miles **£5,995**

06 **56 PEUGEOT 107 1.0 12v Urban 3-dr Hatchback.** In Raven black with black matrix interior, electric windows, CD, colour coded bumpers, only 16,465 miles **£5,995**

06 **06 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 16v SXi 3-dr Hatchback.** In pomegranite red with Duke charcoal interior, alloy wheels, CD, immobiliser, power steering, front electric windows, only 3,480 miles **£5,495**

05 **05 NISSAN Micra 1.2 16v Urbls 5-dr Hatchback.** In Grey with dark grey interior, rear parking sensors, CD, alloy wheels, only 12,215 miles **£5,495**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 1.5dCi Dynamique 5-dr hatchback** in Odyssey met blue with jacquard black interior, sunroof, alloyt wheels, air con, alarm, cd, only 31,538 miles **£4,995**

03 **53 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Ghia 5-dr Hatchback** in moondust silver with bussac ebony interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded, bumpers, only 43,745 miles **£4,995**

03 **03 TOYOTA Yaris GS 1.0L Petrol 5-dr.** In dark green, with grey interior, central locking, CD, only 63,500 miles **£3,995**

02 **02 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Privilege 5-dr Hatchback.** In Nordic green with vertigo grey interior, air con, 5 belted seats, body coloured bumpers, power steering, only 38,940 miles. **£3,995**

04 **04 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Life 3-dr Hatchback.** In breeze blue with Orleans charcoal interior, CD, 5 belted seats, steering wheel audio mounted controls, only 56,321 miles **£3,495**

02 **02 FORD KA 1.3 Hatchback** in Blue with blue interior, pas, insurance group 2, only 58,587 miles, ... **£2,495**

FAMILY SELECTION

07 **56 TOYOTA Auris T3 D-4D.** In Ixion Blue Mica, with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, ... trip .computer, shift indicator, only 12,700 miles **£9,995**

07 **07 FORD Focus Zetec Climate 1.8 TDCi** in moon dust silver with rack ebony interior, quick clear front screen, air con, alloy wheels, only 19,200 miles **£8,995**

06 **56 FORD Focus 1.6 Ghía 5-dr Hatchback Automatic.** In aquarius blue with cubical ebony interior, air con, cruise control. quick clear screen, only 26,900 miles **£7,995**

05 **05 HONDA Civic SE 1.7 CDTi 5-dr Hatchback.** In magnetic blue with hatch black interior, body coloured bumpers, alloy wheels, CD, only 50,300 miles **£6,495**

04 **04 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0 TDCi Ghia MPV.** In moondust silver with Linea ebony interior, alarm, cruise control,CD, alloy wheels, only 54,290 miles **£5,995**

03 **03 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 5-dr** in met Hessian with charcoal grey interior, panoramic roof, air con, cd, auto lights, electric windows front and rear, 56,752 miles **£3,995**

04 **04 FORD Mondeo 1.8 Mistrial 5-dr.** In Tonic Blue with majestic ebony upholstery, air con, central locking, CD, alloy wheels, only 61,165 miles **£3,995**

04 **04 MG ZR+ 1.4 3-dr.** In metallic grey with half leather interior, electric windows, air con, alloy wheels, CD, only 63,335 miles **£3,995**

03 **03 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.8i 16v Design 5-dr MPV** in sapphire black with Texas charcoal interior, 7-seats, air con, cd, roof bas with bike fixings, only 56,300 miles **£3,995**

03 **03 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 5-dr.** In metallic Hessian with charcoal grey interior, panoramic roof, air con, CD, auto lights, electric windows front and rear, 56,752 miles **£3,995**

02 **02 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6i SX 5-dr MPV** in violet blue with beige interior, air con, cd, five belted seats, only 48,500 miles **£2,995**

01 **Y PEUGEOT 206 1.6GLX 5-dr.** In metallic blue with dark interior, air con, front fogs, only 64,000 miles. . **£2,995**

04 04 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Life 3-dr Hatchback. In breeze blue with Orleans charcoal interior, CD, 5 belted seats, steering wheel audio mounted controls, only 56,321 miles **£3,495**

07 07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5-dr Hatchback. In chemical gray with drop blue black interior, central locking, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 22,120 miles **£5,795**

06 06 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi 5-dr hatchback in panther black with Humy dark flint interior, cd, alloy wheels, air con, front fogs, only 27,325 miles **£7,995**

03 53 MG TF Convertible 1.8 135 16v 2-dr. In met silver with dark interior, alloy wheels, CD, only 22,723 miles **£4,495**

05 55 VOLVO S40 2.0 Diesel in amethyst with ivory leather interior, cd, alloy wheels, cruise control, sunroof, electric seats, only 34,255 miles **£9.995**

03 53 MERCEDES S350 Automatic 3.7 Petrol 4-dr Saloon. In brilliant silver with black leather, automatic climate control, walnut wood trim, sat nav, heated seats, CD, front and rear parking sensors, alloy wheels, full Mercedes service history, only 78,700 miles **£12,995**

08 57 FORD Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback. In apple green with Cascade indigo interior, climate control, alloy wheels, CD, body coloured bumpers, heated front screen, only 3,873 miles **£5,995**

02 02 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6i SX 5-dr MPV in violet blue with beige interior, air con, cd, five belted seats, only 48,500 miles **£2,995**

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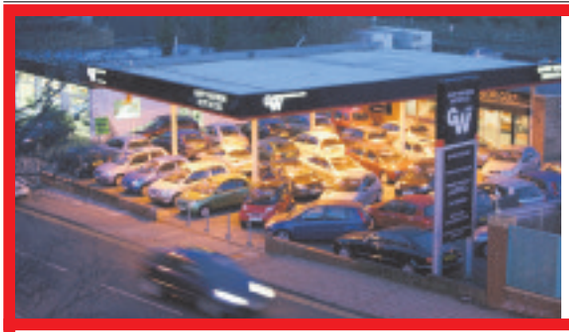

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53 MINI Cooper S in met black with black leather trim, 65,000 miles with pan-roof **£7,995**

04 MINI 1.6 Convertible in yellow, 39,000 miles **£8,995**

81 MGB Roadster in gunmetal grey with light grey leather trim. Nut and bolt restoration. On offer at **£6,995**

56 LEXUS iS 250 SEL (New Shape) Automatic. In met. red with cream leather, 17,000 miles **£17,995**

CONVERTIBLES

99	**JAGUAR XKR Convertible.** In met silver with ivory leather, 61,000 miles with 20" alloys etc.	**£11,995**
08	**PEUGEOT 307 Convertible 2.0 Sport** in met grey with black leather, 10,000 miles	**£10,995**
52	**BMW 318Ci Convertible** In metallic blue with navy hood, 52,000 miles with multi cd, upgraded alloys	**£8,995**
04	**MINI 1.6 Convertible** In yellow, 39,000 miles	**£8,995**
81	**MGB Roadster** in gunmetal grey with light grey leather trim. Nut and bolt restoration. on offer at	**£6,995**
01	**MERCEDES SLK 230 Auto.** Silver, black leather trim, 76k miles, looks and drives superb	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £6,995**
W	**BMW Z3 1.8** In topaz blue, with blue roof and leather trim, 63,000 miles, fantastic value at	**£5,495**
53	**MG TF 1.8** in met silver with charcoal leather trim and navy soft top, low mileage example at only	**£4,995**
99	**MAZDA MX5 1.8.** Met green with beige leather trim, 65,000 miles, host of extras	**£4,995**
03	**MGTF 1.8 (135)** In met. blue, 25,000 miles, superb example at	**£4,695**

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08	**BMW 320 SE** In met -silver, 9,000 miles, fantastic savings against new at	**£17,995**
56	**LEXUS iS 250 SEL (New Shape) Automatic.** In met. red with cream leather, 17,000 miles	**£17,995**
04	**MERCEDES E320CDi Avantgarde Automatic.** In tanzania with grey leather trim, 61,000 miles, Full panoramic roof	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £12,995**
56	**BMW 118 Diesel Sport** In silver with charcoacl trim, 27,000 miles, fsh	**£12,995**
55	**MERCEDES C220 CDi SE Sport Coupe Auto.** In smoke silver, 58,000 miles	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £10,995**
54	**BMW 530 SE Automatic** In met silver with full black leather trim, full specification executive saloon at	**£9,995**
06	**JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 Diesel** in light blue met with grey half-leather trim, 71,000 miles,	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £7,995**
04	**BMW 320 Diesel Sport Touring** in met grey with black leather trim, f antastic value at	**£7,995**
53	**MINI Cooper S** in met black with black leather trim, 65,000 miles with pan-roof	**£7,995**
53	**MINI Cooper** in met silver with black roof and half leather trim, low mileage example with full glass roof	**£7,695**
04	**MITSUBISHI Shogun Sport 3.0 Auto Warrior** in black, 41,000 miles	**£6,995**
53	**MERCEDES C200 Kompressor 6-speed** in black, 46,000 miles with cd, alloys, etc	**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £6,995**
52	**MERCEDES C240 Avant Garde Auto** in met blue, low mileage example at	**£5,995**
53	**LAND ROVER 1.8 Freelander 1.8 Serengeti 5-Dr.** In black, 57,000 miles, usual extras	**£5,495**
99	**BMW 520 SE Auto** In met blue with grey trim, 18" alloys etc.	**£2,695**

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07	**PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDi S/W** in ice blue with full panoramic roof, high spec diesel estate at	**£7,995**
04	**TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 Diesel T-Spirit D-4D 5-dr** in met silver champagne with black leather trim, 71,000 miles, top of the range diesel at only	**£6,995**
06	**RENAULT Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-dr (new shape)** in black, low mileage example at	**£6,495**
55	**RENAULT Megane 1.5 Diesel Expression Automatic.** In met silver, 37,000 miles	**£6,495**
06	**NISSAN Micra 1.4 SVE Automatic.** In met grey, 26,000 miles, fantastic specification	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,995**
06	**PEUGEOT 207 1.4S 3-dr** in met grey, very desirable hatch at	**£5,995**
04	**TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 T3X** in met silver, low mileage family car at only	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,495**
07	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campass 3-dr** in silver with cd, a/c, etc	**£4,995**
06	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 12v Active** Black, 12,000 miles only, low insurance, CD, alloys and air con	**£4,995**
55	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 5-dr** in silver, 42,000 miles with cd, sunroof, etc	**£4,995**
05	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Extreme 4.** In met. grey, 38,000 miles with CD, alloys	**£4,995**
03	**CITROEN C8 2.0 HDi SX 7 Seater** In Jade metallic, 70,000 miles with electric sliding rear doors	**£4,995**
54	**FIAT Panda 1.2 Eleganza** in met-blue, 52,000 miles with roof rails, CD, A/C	**£3,995**
04	**SMART CAR Pulse.** Red & black, black leather trim, 35,000 miles. full glass roof	**£4,995**
52	**TOYOTA Yaris 1.5 T-Sport 3-dr** in smoke silver, 41,000 miles, FSH, superb value at	**£4,695**
04	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 5-dr** in ice blue metallic, 29,000 miles	**£4,495**
04	**NISSAN Almera 2.2 DCI SE 5-dr.** 49,000 miles, superb value diesel at	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495**
54	**SUZUKI 1.5 VVTi Ignis Sport.** In Met Silver, 50,000 miles, with Recara sports seats, alloys etc.	**£4,695**
03	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SX 3-Dr.** In Black, 61,000 miles with CD, alloys etc.	**£3,795**
55	**FIAT Punto 1.2 Sunroof Special.** In blue, very nice example	**REDUCED BY £600 TO £3,695**
04	**FORD Ka 1.3 Style** In Silver, low mileage, local car at	**£3,695**
04	**DAEWOO Kalos 145X 5-dr.** Met blue, 17,000 miles, ideal family hatch, fantastic value	**£3,695**
55	**CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.4 SE 5-dr.** In black, fantastic value at	**£3,495**
05	**DAEWOO Lacetti SX 5-dr** in silver, 26,000 miles, excellent example at	**£3,495**
03	**RENAULT Megane 1.4 Dynamique 5-dr** in met blue, stylish modern family hatch at	**£3,495**
03	**RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 16v.** 3-dr in electric blue, low mileage local car at	**£3,495**
52	**VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Life 12v.** In Red, 21,000 miles with air con, CD etc.	**£3,495**
02	**FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Automatic 5-Dr.** In met blue, 45,000 miles with climate pack	**£3,495**
53	**FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 3-Dr.** In met red, low mileage, low insurance	**£3,295**
02	**MG ZR 2.0 Diesel 3-dr** in met burgundy, low mileage example at	**£3,295**
03	**FORD Ka 1.3i.** In Blue, 30,000 miles, local car at	**£2,995**
53	**MG 1.4 ZR 3-dr.** In Bright metallic Green, 55,000 miles, low mileage on offer at	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £2,995**
52	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 SXi 3-dr.** In met. silver, 69,000 miles, full sports pack plus upgraded alloys	**£2,995**
02	**SKODA Fabia 1.4 16v 4-dr** in light metallic blue, 50,000 miles	**£2,995**
Y	**NISSAN Micra 1.0 S 5-dr Automatic.** In met-green, only 21,000 miles, 2 lady owners from new	**£2,995**
W	**FORD Puma 1.7** Met silver, 59,000 miles, with a/c, c/d, alloys	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £2,495**
Y	**VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.6 Estate** In Silver with privacy glass, roof rails etc.	**REDUCED BY £500 TO £2,495**
02	**DAEWOO Matiz SE** in bright met green, 33,000 miles, low insurance	**£2,295**
02	**DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 SX** in silver, 55,000 miles, a/c, cd	**£1,995**

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CITROËN C2

07 1.1i Design	Black	21,000miles	£6,495
56 1.6i 16v Code Sp Eds	Black	22,106miles	£7,495
56 1.6i 16v by LOEB Sp Eds	Red	20,700miles	£7,495
06 1.1i Design	Black	23,500miles	£5,995

CITROËN C3

08 1.4i Rhythm	Silver	11,325miles	£7,995
07 1.4i Pluriel Cote d'Azur	Silver	16,125miles	£6,995
56 1.1i Desire Special Edition	Blue	19,522miles	£5,995
56 1.1i L	Red	1,534miles	£5,995
06 1.4i SX	Gold	44,150miles	£5,995
05 1.4i 16v Rhythm	Silver	30,497miles	£5,795
04 1.1i L	Red	17,421miles	£4,495

CITROËN C4

08 1.6 HDi16v VTR Plus EGS Coupe	Black	15,440miles	£11,495
08 1.6i 16v Exclusive	Blue	12,010miles	£9,995
56 1.6i 16v VTR Plus Coupe	Silver	41,845miles	£6,795
56 1.6i 16v SX Auto Hatch	Silver	23,661miles	£6,495

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08 1.6HDi VTR+	Red	15,789 miles	£12,995
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08 2.0 HDi VTR+	Grey	12,973miles	£13,495
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05 2.0i 16v Exclusive Auto	Red	53,100miles	£6,995

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09 1.6i 16v VTR estate	Silver	5miles	£9,495
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08 1.6 HDi 92 VTX Diesel	Silver	18,000miles	£9,495
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56 1.6i 16v Desire Estate	Silver	18,544miles	£6,495
06 1.6 HDi 92 Exclusive	Red	43,338miles	£6,995
05 2.0 HDi Exclusive	Blue	28,813miles	£6,995
05 1.6 HDi 110 Exclusive	Blue	26,000miles	£6,495
54 2.0i 16v Exclusive Auto	Silver	29,000miles	£6,495
03 1.8i 16v SX Estate	Beige	51,500miles	£3,995

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06 Peugeot Verve 1.4	Grey	25,000miles	£6,495

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All illustrated deals are non part exchange. * These finance offers are only available on FRF finance. † Amount of fuel given free this weekend is £20 total with each offer Exchange vehicles must have an MOT certificate valid for a minimum of three months. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

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Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating dealers only on vehicles registered between 1 April 2009 and 30 June 2009. †0% finance available on Mazda Conditional Sale on all-new Mazda3 models. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. Model shown: All-new Mazda3 1.6 5dr TS². OTR £15,500. Model shown features optional metallic paint (£385) and accessories available at additional cost.

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06 06 VAUXHALL AstraTwin Top 1.6 Design Alloys, a/c, cd, star silver

08 08 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI Style a/c, cd, alloys, vision blue

08 New Shape 58 FIESTA 1.25 Zetec 5-dr. B/tooth, cd, alloys, a/c

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08 08 KA 1.3i Zetec Climate 3-dr. a/c, cd, alloys, 1 only £5995
06 06 KA 1.3i Collection 3-dr. cd, c/l £4495
08 58 New Shape FIESTA 1.25 Zetec 5-dr. B/tooth, cd, alloys, a/c .. £10495
08 57 FIESTA 1.4 TDCi Zetec Climate 3-dr. Alloys, a/c cd £35 tax ... £7695
06 56 FIESTA 1.4 TDCi Style 5-Dr. cd, e/w, £35 to tax £6695
06 06 FIESTA 1.4 Zetec 3-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd, quickclear £5695
05 05 FIESTA 1.4 TDCI Zetec Climate 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd £5695
04 54 FIESTA 1.4 Zetec 3-Dr. a/c, cd, electrics £4495
08 08 FUSION 1.4 TDCI Plus 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd £8795
08 58 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI Style Estate 5-dr. a/c, cd, electrics £10995
08 08 FOCUS 1.8 TDCi Zetec 5-Dr. a/c, cd, alloys £10495
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08 08 FOCUS 1.6 Titanium 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd, privacy glass £9995
08 08 FOCUS 1.6 TDCI Style 5-dr. a/c, cd, electrics £9995
07 57 FOCUS 1.8 Style 5-dr. Sports pack, a/c, cd £7995
06 06 FOCUS 1.6 LX 5-dr. a/c,cd, electrics £6295
06 56 FOCUS 1.6 LX Estate 5-dr. a/c, cd, electrics £5795
05 55 FOCUS 2.0 Ghia 4-dr. Alloys, a/c, park assist £6495
05 55 FOCUS 2.0 TDCI Ghia 4-dr. Alloys, a/c, park assist £6995
05 05 FOCUS 1.6 Zetec Climate 5-dr. a/c, alloys, cd £5995
04 04 FOCUS 1.8 Ghia Estate. a/c, cd, electrics £4995
04 04 FOCUS 1.6 Ghia 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd £4495
02 02 FOCUS 1.6 CL 5-dr. cd, park assist £3495
00 X FOCUS 1.6 LX 5-Dr. a/c, cd, alloys £2495
08 08 C-MAX 1.8 TDCI Zetec 5-dr. Sport pack, a/c, cd £10995
08 57 C-MAX 1.8 TDCI Titanium 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd £10995
06 06 C-Max 1.6 TDCi Zetec a/c, cd, alloys £6995
06 06 C-MAX 1.6 TDCI Zetec 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd £6995
06 06 C-MAX 1.6 Zetec 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd £6995
06 56 MONDEO 2.2 TDCi ST (155PS) a/c, cd, alloys £8995
05 05 MONDEO 2.0 TDCi 130 LX 5-dr. a/c, cd, cruise £5995
05 05 MONDEO 1.8 LX 5-dr. a/c, cd, cruise £4995
05 05 MONDEO 2.0 TDCi LX. a/c, cd, 130ps, 6-speed £4495
07 07 S-MAX 1.8 TDCI LX 5-dr. 7-seats, park assist £12495
07 57 GALAXY 1.8 TDCi Ghia. a/c, cd, 7 seats £13995

CONVERTIBLES

09 09 FOCUS CC3 2.0. Black, cream leather luxury pack £15995
09 09 FOCUS 2.0 TDCI CC2. Alloys, aa/c, cd, 1 only £14995
06 06 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Design. Aloys, cd, a/c £8995

AUTOMATICS

08 08 FOCUS 1.6 Zetec Auto 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd £9995
08 08 FUSION 1.4 Zetec Auto 5-dr. a/c, cd, alloys £8995
08 57 MONDEO 2.3 Edge Estate Auto. Sat nav, park assist £11995
08 57 MONDEO 2.0 TDCI Titanium Auto 5-dr. fully loaded £13995
06 06 FIESTA 1.6 Ghia 5-dr Auto. Alloys, a/c, cd, full electrics £7295
07 07 FUSION 1.6 Auto 5-Dr Zetec. a/c, cd £7995
06 06 FUSION 1.6 Zetec Auto 5-dr. a/c, cd, alloys £7295
06 06 FOCUS 1.6 LX 5-dr Auto. a/c, cd, electrics £6495
06 06 FOCUS 1.6 Sport Estate Auto. Alloys, a/c, cd £6495
06 06 C-MAX 2.0 Zetec Auto. Alloys, a/c, cd, choice £6995
06 55 FIESTA 1.4 Zetec Climate Auto 3-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd £6295
06 55 FOCUS 2.0 Ghia 5-dr Auto. Alloys, cd, cruise £6995
06 55 C-MAX 2.0 Ghia Auto 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd £7295
99 T VW Golf 1.6 Auto 5-dr. Full electrics £2495

OTHERS

08 58 RENAULT Twingo 1.2 16v Dynamique 3-dr. Alloys, a/c £6995
08 08 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 Life 5-dr. a/c, cd, electrics £8495
08 08 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVTi 5-dr. Blue, a/c, bluetooth £7495
07 57 PEUGEOT 308 1.6S 5-dr. a/c, electrics £8495
07 57 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 TR 5-Dr. a/c, cd £7995
07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Expression 3-dr. a/c, cd £6495
07 07 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.3 CDTi Life. a/c, electrics, cd £7995
07 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 Sport 5-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd, ... £7495
07 07 VW Fox 1.2S 3-dr. cd, electrics £5295
06 56 VW Touran 1.9 TDi S 5-dr. 7 seats, alloys, a/c £8995
06 06 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Twintop Design. a/c, cd £8995
06 06 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 T3 3-dr. a/c, cd, electrics £5995
06 06 CITROEN Picasso 1.6 HDi MPV Desire. Full electrics £6495
06 06 CITROEN Picasso 1.6 HDI Exclusive. Climate, alloys £6695
06 06 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXI + 3-dr. Half leather, a/c, cd £5995
06 06 NISSAN Note 1.4 SE 5-dr. a/c, cd, alloys £6495
06 06 RENAULT Modus 1.4 Dynamique 5-dr. cd, a/c £4995
05 55 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Sport 3-dr. Alloys, a/c, cd £4495
05 05 RENAULT Scenic 1.9 DCI Dynamique 6-speed. a/c, cd £6495
05 54 RENAULT Laguna 1.9 DCI 120PS. a/c, cd, alloys £4495
05 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3 3-dr. a/c, alloys £4295
04 54 SKODA 1.2 Fabia 5-dr. a/c, cd, alloys £4995
04 54 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Life 3-dr. cd, electrics, choice £3995
04 04 VW Polo 1.2S 3-dr. a/c, cd, electrics £4295
03 03 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Look 3-dr. a/c, electrics £3495
02 02 PEUGEOT 307 1.4 HDi LX 5-dr. a/c, £35 to tax £3495
02 02 RENAULT Laguna 1.8 5-dr Expression. a/c, alloys, cd £2495
01 51 CHRYSLER PT Cruiser 2.0 Ltd 5-dr. a/c, cd, leather £3995
01 Y MAZDA Premacy 1.8 Atlantis 5-dr. cd, a/c, electrics £2995

01 51 CHRYSLER PT Cruiser 2.0 Ltd 5-dr a/c, cd, full leather

08 08 C-MAX 1.8 TDCI Zetec 5-dr MPV. a/c, cd

08 08 FUSION 1.4 Zetec Auto 5-dr a/c, cd, alloys, tonic blue

08 57 MONDEO 2.3 Edge Estate Auto. Sat nav, roof rails, park assist, heated seats

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06 **PEUGEOT 206 CC 1.6 Alure.** Finished in moonstone blue met, alloys, a/c, radio, cd, 28k **£7495**
05 **RENAULT Megane CC 1.9 DCi (Diesel) Dynamique.** Finished in met grey, alloys, climate, cd, 50k **£7495**
05 **PEUGEOT 206 CC Quicksilver 1.6.** Finished in met silver with Quicksilver trim, alloys, climate control, cd, 38k **£6795**
54 **FORD Street Ka 1.6 Luxury.** Finished in tourmallard green met **with full magnolia leather trim**, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, 2 lady owners, 31k **£5495**
03 **PORSCHE Boxster 3.2 S.** Finished in black **with full grey leather**, 18" upgrade alloys, a/c, sports seats, cd, electric hood, 60k **£13795**

SPORTS/EXECUTIVE

57 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTI (Diesel) (150bhp) 16v SRI.** Met black, **full black leather**, sports seats, pas, alloys, a/c, 25k **£10295**
07 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.6 VXR 3-Dr.** Finished in met black, **half leather**, alloys, a/c, cd, sports seats, 23k **£10995**
07 **FIAT Grande Punto Sporting M-Jet 1.9 (Diesel) 3-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, a/c, cd, 13k **£7295**
07 **FIAT Punto Grande 1.4 Active Sport 3-Dr.** Finished in metallic silver, alloys, cd, pas, c/locking, e/windows **£5295**
56 **AUDI Q7 S-Line 3.0TDi (Diesel) Quattro.** Finished in met black with **black leather/suede interior**, 20" alloys, climate control, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 28k **£25995**
06 **AUDI A3 SE 1.9TDI (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, climate, cd , 67k **£8995**
55 **BMW 525 SE (Diesel) Auto** Finished in met silver with full **black Dakota leather**, alloys, climate, cd, 1 owner fsh, 55k **£12495**
55 **JAGUAR X-Type Sport 2.0 V6 Auto.** Finished in black, **with black leather**, alloys, a/c, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 49k **£7995**
55 **FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST.** Finished in performance blue, **black leather/sports cloth trim**, alloys, a/c, cd, 52k **£6795**
05 **VW Golf 2.0 GT TDi (Diesel) (140) 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, radio, cd, multichanger, fsh, 39k **£9795**
05 **PEUGEOT 206 2.0 GTi 180 3-dr.** Finished in metallic silver with **black leather suede upholstery**, sports seats, alloys, a/c, multiplay cd, 25k **£6695**
54 **PEUGEOT 206 GTi 1.6 HDi (Diesel) 110 3-dr.** Finished in aegean blue with **full black leather**, sports pack, alloys, a/c, multiplay cd, 44k **£6495**
53 **VW Golf 1.9 GT TDi (Diesel) 5-Dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 67k **£6295**
52 **BMW 316 TI Compact SE.** Finished in black, alloys, a/c, cd, 72k **£5195**
52 **PEUGEOT 206 GTI 2.0 3-dr.** Finished in china blue met, **leather/suede interior**, pas, alloys, climate, cd **£4295**
Y **PEUGEOT 206 GTI 2.0 3-dr.** Finished in met silver, **black leather trim**, alloys, climate, cd, 36k **£3695**
T **FIAT Coupe Turbo 2.0.** Finished in speed red, **full black leather**, alloys, a/c, cd 12 disc multichanger, 81k **£2695**

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07 **NISSAN X-Trail 2.2 DCi (Diesel) SE 5-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, a/c, cd, 76k **£8495**
07 **RENAULT Megane Dynamique 1.6 VVTI Sport Tourer.** Finished in met grey,alloys, a/c, cd, 18k **£6995**
07 **VAUXHALL Meriva 1.6 Design** Finished in met silver, twin electric sunroofs, a/c, radio, cd, 16k **£6995**
56 **AUDI Q7 S-Line 3.0TDi (Diesel) Quattro.** Finished in met black with **black leather/suede interior**, 20" alloys, climate control, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 28k **£25995**
06 **PEUGEOT Partner Totem 1.9D (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met grey, pas, e/w, a/c. cd, 1 owner, 30k **£5495**
55 **FORD Mondeo LX Estate 2.0 TDCi (Diesel).** Finished in met black, air con, cd, cruise control, 1 owner, fsh, 54k **£5495**
55 **PEUGEOT Partner Totem 1.9 (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met ice blue, pas, c/l, e/w, cd, 33k **£5495**
05 **MERCEDES ML 270CDi (Diesel) Automatic.** Finished in light met blue with full grey leather, alloys, a/c, cd, 49k **£12495**
05 **LANDROVER Freelander Sport 2.0 TD4 (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met green, alloys, a/c, cd, 40k **£8495**
05 **RENAULT Megane Sport Tourer Dynamique 1.9 DCi (Diesel) Estate.** Met grey, alloys, climate, cd, fsh, 1 owner **£4695**
05 **RENAULT Laguna Expression 2.0 16v Sport Tourer.** Finished in met grey, alloys, a/c, cd, electric sunroof, 74k **£3995**
54 **FORD Focus C-Max 1.8LX 5-dr.** Finished in moondust silver, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, radio, cd, 37k **£4995**
04 **MAZDA 6 2.0D TS (Diesel) Estate.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, cdm cruise control, 73k **£5495**
03 **CITROEN Picasso 1.8 SX.** Finishged in met grey, pas, c/l, e/w, cd, 37k **£3995**
03 **NISSAN Almera Tino S 1.8 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, pas, c/l, e/w, climate control, 43k **£3695**
Y **VAUXHALL Zafira Elegance 2.2 Auto.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, roof rails **£2495**

FAMILY CARS

07/57 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTI 16v SRI.** Met black, **full black leather sports seats**, pas, alloys, a/c, 25k **£10295**
56 **CITROEN C4 VTR+ 1.6 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, climate, cd, 24k **£6295**
06 **FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec Climate T 3-dr.** Finished in moondust silver, alloys, climate, cd, 1 owner, 33k **£6295**
06 **CITROEN C4 1.4 VT Coupe.** Finished in met grey, pas, r/c/l, e/w, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 37k **£4995**
06 **PEUGEOT 307 1.6S 5-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, a/c, cd, 31k **£5995**
55 **VOLKSWAGEN Passat SE 2.0 TDi (Diesel) 4-dr.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, 6-speed, 1 owner, fsh, 63k **£6795**
55 **RENAULT Megane SL Oasis 1.6 5-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, air-con, cd, electric sunroof **£5495**
05 **TOYOTA Corolla T3 D4D (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 1 owner, fsh, 48k **£6495**
05 **SEAT Altea Stylance TDI (Diesel)** Finished in met grey, alloys, climate, cd, 56k **£6495**
05 **FORD Focus Zetec Climate 1.6 TDCi (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in tonic blue met, alloys, a/c, cd, 70k **£5995**
05 **FORD Focus LX 1.6 TDCi (Diesel) 5-Dr.** Finished in panther black met., pas, air con, c/locking, e/windows, 82k **£5495**
05 **PEUGEOT 307 1.6 SE 5-dr.** Finished in met grey, alloys, climate control, cd, 1 owner, 38k **£5295**
05 **CITROEN C4 LX 1.6 HDi (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met gold, pas, c/l, e/w, cd, 47k **£4995**
54 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Design Auto 5-Dr.** Finished in met storm grey with **black leather trim**, alloys, a/c, cd, 18k **£5295**
54 **FORD Focus 1.6 Auto 5-dr.** Panther black, alloys, cd, pas, c/l, e/w **£4495**
04 **TOYOTA Corolla T3 1.6 VVTi Auto 3-dr.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, cd, 58k **£4995**
04 **SEAT Leon SE 1.8 20v 5-dr.** Finished in met grey, alloys, a/c, cd, 47k **£4795**
04 **FORD Focus 2.0 Ghia 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd/multichanger, 42k **£4495**
04 **FORD Mondeo 1.8LX 5-dr.** Finished in oyster gold met, pas, c/l, e/w, cd, cruise control, 57k **£3995**
53 **HONDA Civic 1.6 Inspire 5-dr.** Finished in met green, alloys, a/c, cd, 61k **£4695**
53 **FORD Mondeo 1.8 Zetec 5-dr.** Finished in oyster gold met, alloys, a/c, cd, cruise control, 68k **£3695**
03 **MERCEDES A170 CDI (Diesel) Classic 5-dr.** Finished in blue, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, cd, 45k **£4995**
02 **MERCEDES A140 Elegance 5-dr.** Finished in metallic silver, alloys, a/c, cd 59k **£3995**
03 **MAZDA 6 1.8 TS 5-dr.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, cd, 67k **£3995**
03 **CITROEN C5 LX 5-Dr 2.0 HDi (Diesel).** Finished in met red, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, cd, 81k **£2995**
03 **ROVER 75 1.8T Club SE 4-dr.** Finished in met. blue, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, alloys **£3195**
51 **TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 VVTi GS 5-dr.** Finished in met red, a/c, radio, cd, pas, c/l, e/w, 67k **£2695**
Y **VW Passat 2.0 SE 4-dr.** Finished in met blue with **full beige leather**, alloys, a/c, cd, 88k **£2995**
Y **FORD Focus Ghia 1.8 TDDI (Diesel) 5-dr.** Pacific met green, pas, c/l, a/c, cd, 56k **£2995**
Y **MAZDA 323 1.6 GSi 5-Dr.** Finished in blue met., alloys, a/c, cd **£2695**

SMALL CARS

08 **(New Shape) VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Life 3-dr.** Finished in black, pas, c/l, e/w, radio, cd, 15k **£6995**
57 **FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 3-dr.** Finished in jeans blue met, pas, a/c, radio/cd, e/w, 10k **£6795**
57 **SMART Fortwo Pure 71 Auto.** Finished in black, pas, r/c/l, cd, 6k, only £35 per year road tax **£5995**
07 **FORD Fiesta Style Climate 1.4 TDCi (Diesel) 5-Dr.** Finished in met green, air con, pas, c/locking, e/windows, cd, 31k, only £35 a year road tax **£6995**
07 **FORD Fiesta Zetec Climate 1.4 TDCi (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in black, alloys, a/c, cd, 42k, only £35 per year road tax **£6795**
56 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 3-dr.** Finished in metallic moondust silver, alloys, a/c, cd, 48k **£6195**
56 **CITROEN C3 Desire 1.4 HDi (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in wicked red, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, cd, 1 owner, 33k **£5795**
56 **HYUNDAI Getz 1.1 GSI 3-dr.** Met ice blue, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, cd, 27k **£4695**
06 **PEUGEOT 206 Verve 1.4 HDI (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met blue, alloys, a/c, cd, 36k **£5995**
06 **PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve** Finished in black, sports seats, alloys, a/c, cd, 37k **£5995**
06 **CITROEN C3 1.1 Desire 5-dr.** Finished in mauritius blue, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, cd, 1 owner, 9k **£5495**
05 **MAZDA 2 1.4 Antares 5-dr.** Finished in met grey, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, 27k **£5195**
05 **VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2S 3-dr.** Finished in Mars red, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, 34k **£4995**
54 **RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.5 DCi (Diesel) 3-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, sunroof, cd, 70k. only £35 a year tax **£4495**
04 **TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 T3 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, c/l, e/w, pas, 48k **£4995**
04 **RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, cd **£4295**
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GEM sport

Cowbridge Comprehensive School sports round-up

BADMINTON

THE Cardiff and Vale Schools Badminton Championships were held at the Welsh Institute of Sport, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff with the school entering more than 50 pupils.

There were three age groups and three disciplines – singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

Year-7/8 boys singles: The following boys played in the group stages winning two games and losing one – Rhys Elms, George Gibson, Todd Wilcox. Jonathan Humphries lost in the semi-final and Wil Painter retained the title he won last year 15-10, 15-11.

Year-7/8 girls singles: The following girls played in the group stages, winning two games and losing one – Liz Whitehouse, Mari Boxall, Hannah Taylor, Millie Booth and Naduni Jayishye lost in the semi-finals.

Year-7/8 boys doubles: Jonathan Humphries and Isaac Richmond, Jack Faulkner and Harley Wilkinson, Cameron Mears and David Howells all went out in the group stage. Rhys Elms and Todd Wilcox lost in the semi-final; Wil Painter and James Caseley won the final 15-12, 15-10.

Year-7/8 girls doubles: Liz White and Mari Boxall, Ruth David and Caitlin Allin, Angharad Davies and Hannah Taylor lost in the group stage. Millie Booth and Naduni Jayishye and Anna Wynne and Meneske Mutlu-Smith lost in the semi-final.

Year-7/8 mixed doubles: Todd Wilcox and Millie Booth, George Gibson and Angharad Davies lost in the group stage. James Caseley and Liz Whitehouse and Jonathan Humphries and Mari Boxall lost in the semi-finals. Wil Painter and Naduni Jayishye lost in the final 11-15, 10-15.

Year-9/10 boys singles: Dayle Painter, James Hendy were knocked out in the group stage; Rhys Mallows, Jack Scanlon lost in the semi-finals and Sidarth Devalia lost in the final 15-11, 12-15, 13-15.

Year-9/10 girls singles: Rachel Bradshaw, Romy Killick, Lois Palmer were knocked out in group stage. Jess Oliver won the final 15-9, 15-10.

Year-9/10 boys doubles: Rhys Mallows and James Hendy lost in the semi-finals. Sidarth Devalia and Jack Scanlon won the final 15-12, 15-11.

Year-9/10 girls doubles: Anna Pauline and Sophie Gallagher lost in semi-final. Romy Killick and Rachel Bradshaw lost in the final to Jess Oliver and Lois Palmer 15-10, 13-15, 15-11.

Year-9/10 mixed doubles: Dayle Painter and Anna Pauline, Rhys Mallows and Romy Killick lost in the group stage. James Hendy and Rachel Bradshaw, Jack Scanlon and Sophie Gallagher lost in the semi-final. Sidarth Devalia and Jess Oliver won the final 15-10, 15-7.

Year-11/13 boys singles: Nathan Scottand, Aaron Cottrell lost in the group stage. Huw Williams lost in the semi-final and Vikram Devalia won the final 15-12, 15-11.

Year-11/13 girls singles: Sabrina James, Emily Renwick, Jordan Guard lost in the group stage and Sara Edwards lost in the semi-finals.

Year-11/13 boys doubles: Chris Tune and Mathew Lewis, Huw Williams and Aaron Cottrell lost in the group stage; Vikram Devalia and Nathan Scott were runners-up.

Year-11/13 girls doubles: Felicity Symes and Cathryn Brown lost in group stage; Sara Edwards and Sabrina James and Emily Renwick and Jordan Guard lost in the semi-finals.

Year-11/13 mixed doubles: Huw Williams and Emily Renwick, Chris Tune and Cathryn Brown, Mathew Lewis and Sabrina James lost in the group stage; Nathan Scott and Jordan Guard lost in the semi-finals and Vikram Devalia and Sara Edwards lost in the final 10-15, 15-11, 12-15.

These were excellent set of results from the school badminton players. Well done to all.

FOOTBALL

THE annual National 7-a-side Urdd tournament was held at Dolau University playing fields, Aberystwyth, with the school entering at all four categories.

After an early start at 6am, the teams arrived safely at Aberystwyth looking forward to the day's tournament.

Year-8 girls – Many of the girls in year-8 are new to the game of football and showed improvement as the tournament went on: v Brynyrefail School, Caernarvon lost 2-0; v Efionydd School, Gwynedd lost 4-1 (goal by Ruth David); v Penweddug School, Aberystwyth lost 4-0; v Cwm Rhymni School, Bargoed lost 1-0.

Two of the teams in the group reached the final, so it was a tough group to be in. Well done to all the girls.

Squad: Liz Whitehouse, Millie Booth, Hannah Taylor, Angharad Davies, Anna Wynne, Mia Scott, Mari Boxall, Clarice Stark, and Ruth David.

Year-8 boys – The boys got off to flying start in this tournament and looked capable of defending the title won by the school last year: v Gwendraeth School won 4-0 (Mathew Jacka, Rhys Cogan, Todd Wilcox, Rhys Elms); v Llanharri School won 1-0 (Rhys Elms); v Corpus Christi 0-0 v Glantaf lost 0-1.

In the final game v Glantaf, the team only needed a draw to qualify but sadly a goal in the final seconds meant they were out of the competition.

Squad: Mathew Jacka (capt), Todd Wilcox, Rhys Elms, Rhys Cogan, Mathew Wallsgrove, Scott Laken, Joe Foulds, Sam Cooper, Daniel Hollings, Chris Brace, Alex Young.

PLAYING a very good passing game, the year-9/10 girls won all group matches.

There were some quality goals by the strikers. Unfortunately, these dried up in the semi-final, losing in a very close game 1-0.

A big thank you to all the girls who play football for the school, as only one plays outside school: v Glan y mor, Burry Port won 4-0 (Molly Llewellyn 2, Katie Howson 2); v Ystalyfera, Swansea won 4-0 (Dempsey Giles, Molly Llewellyn, Katie Howson, Coryn Sexton); v Cwm Rhymni, Bargoed, 1-0 (Dempsey Giles); v Ysgol Preseli semi-final lost 0-1.

Squad: Katie Howson, Bethan Moorcraft, Amy Taylor, Georgina Jackson, Fran Revers, Molly Llewellyn, Dempsey Giles, Coryn Sexton, Hayley Smith, Laura Howells.

Urdd year-10 – After a slow start to the tournament with a 0-0 draw with Bro Ddyfi, Cowbridge scored their first goal against Moelwyn through John Davies.

Unfortunately, the opposition equalised and the game ended in a 1-1 draw.

The following game ended in disappointment with a 1-0 defeat against a powerful Bryn Tawe who won via a long ball and sloppy defending. The team were facing an early exit and realised that they had to raise their game or face elimination.

Against Tregaron, we registered our first win with a 3-0 defeat, thanks to goals from Sam Street and two more from John Davies.

Another strong performance and a further goal from John Davies gave the boys a 1-0 win over Cwm Rhymni and a passage through to the next round. The team had finally started to play with guile and determination.

A quarter-final against Dyffryn Tyfi saw the boys continue with another strong performance and a good 1-0 victory, thanks to Sam Street's second goal in extra time.

This, however, proved to be the final goal in open play as the boys were eliminated in the semi-finals against Brynrefail after a 0-0 draw. Extra time penalties proved an obstacle too far and defeat ensued with a 3-1 defeat after a battling display.

An excellent day out and man-of-the-match performance by John Davies, who contributed with his battling midfield displays and a tally of four goals.

ABOVE: A total of 50 pupils competed in the Cardiff and Vale Schools Badminton championships.

ABOVE: The Year-8 boys team.

Above: The Year-8 girls football team.

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